MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 MAY 1984

Lebanon

Arrested Israelis — Israel will take a "very serious view" of any Syrian attempt to pin "false accusations" on the three Israelis arrested on Lebanese soil. It regards the Syrian Government as responsible for their safety and well-being, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. He said Israel expects the Syrians to release the three as soon as possible but admitted that appeals through "various" countries have thus far proved fruitless. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Ash-Shar' disclosed in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo that the captured Israelis have been transferred to Damascus and will be treated as prisoners of war according to the Geneva convention. An *AL-BA'TH* commentary reviewed by Damascus radio said the Israelis were a "terrorist cell" working in coordination with the CIA to help implement the "terrorist plan" embodied in President Reagan's "Directive 138" of 3 April. In another report, the radio said the Israelis provided information on their role in "killing and destruction against Arab citizens and the population in the occupied territories."

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that the Lebanese Army was either persuaded or forced to turn the three men over to the Syrians and this was "totally improper." The three were detained for 3 hours in the Lebanese Army headquarters in Al-Batrun before being handed over to the Syrians, the radio asserted. Beirut radio cited reports by eyewitnesses and security sources that the Israelis were directly arrested by Syrian soldiers after their vehicle was disabled by gunfire in which one of the Israelis was wounded. Available information indicates that the incident was engineered by Israel to "pave the way for aggression" against Syria, the radio charged. An official Lebanese source also claimed that Israel ignored official requests for the closure of the Israeli liaison office north of Beirut, according to the radio.

Political Situation — Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and 'Abdallah ar-Rasi did not attend the new government's first Cabinet meeting in Beirut, but Prime Minister Rashid Karami said on the Voice of Lebanon radio that he is confident they will "shoulder the responsibility" and take up the Cabinet posts offered them. He stressed that the small Cabinet should be viewed as an "emergency and salvation committee" in which ministers be will not merely specialists but will be responsible for jointly formulating general policy. Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that Birri may be induced to join the Cabinet if he is entrusted with a special ministry to handle the affairs of southern Lebanon.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warships intercepted a "medium-size enemy naval target" trying to approach an Iraqi port, scoring direct hits on the vessel, Iraq announced in a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Meanwhile, in an interview with Kuwaiti journalists published by the *GULF DAILY NEWS*, President Saddam Husayn acknowledged that Iraqi Super-Etendard aircraft last week attacked an Arab ship "of which the international press has spoken a great deal" — remarks which his audience viewed as a clear reference to the Saudi-owned tanker *Safina al-'Arab*, hit while carrying oil from Khark Island for a Swedish charter company. The Iraqi leader urged "brother Arab" nations not to allow their ships to be used for loading at Khark and warned that Iraq will continue to attack targets in the declared exclusion zone in the northern Gulf.

Tehran radio charged that the Saudi tanker was hit outside the Iraqi-designated exclusion zone, adding that the incident shows the Iraqi regime to be the "greatest element in the instability" in the Gulf. The attack should have made it plain to Saudi Arabia and other governments financing Iraq that such assistance is like "giving a sword to a drunken slave," the radio asserted.

In another development, an Iranian foreign affairs spokesman dismissed Egypt's peace plan for ending the war as "totally worthless and rejected," according to Tehran radio. At a time when the movement of Iranian forces has approached its "final stages" and the Iraqi regime is in the "worst possible circumstances," such efforts by countries which support Iraq are "doomed to failure," the spokesman added.

Libya

Countries sheltering "Libyan terrorists" will be hit "where it hurts," Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned in a press conference reported by AFP. Stating that British citizens in Libya would not be affected by the crisis between the two countries, Al-Qadhdhafi warned that Britain would be responsible for what could happen to them. The Libyan leader claimed that the weapons discovered in the People's Bureau in London were "planted" by British police. Al-Qadhdhafi also renewed his offer to withdraw any Libyan troops in Chad if France withdraws its troops from Africa.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison denounced remarks by a State Department official urging Europe to impose an economic and political boycott on Libya, Tripoli radio reported. The statement described the remarks as a "flagrant threat" to Arab sovereignty, particularly as the remarks concide with NATO preparations for military exercises in the Mediterranean designed to "provoke Libya."

'Arafat in Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio announced. In an arrival statement reported by Amman radio, 'Arafat indicated that the purpose of his visit is to "complete" the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Assassination of Arab Official Attempted in Nicosia
LD031045 Kuwait KUNA in English 1002 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Nicosia, May 3 (KUNA) — Arab Journalists Union Secretary General Hanna Muqbil was seriously injured in an assassination attempt here Thursday morning.

Muqbil's 28-year old secretary was also injured in the incident in a Nicosia street, Palestinian sources told KUNA.

The sources said that Muqbil, a Palestinian who carries a Lebanese passport, and the secretary were on their way to work at 6:40 am local time (4:40 GMT) [KUNA note] when an unidentified gunman opened fire on them.

Five bullets hit the Palestinian journalist and a further two struck his secretary, the sources said.

Cypriot police have made no arrests, but said they believed the gunman was "Middle Eastern," and acting alone. The two were taken to Nicosia General Hospital, where Muqbil's condition was described as "serious," while his secretary, Raymonda Farran, was said to be better after emergency surgery.

A Palestinian spokesman in Cyprus denounced the assassination attempt and accused Israel of responsibility.

The deputy PLO representative in Cyprus Milad 'Abduh told KUNA that there was reason to believe that Israel intelligence agents were behind the attack on Muqbil, who runs a news agency based here which concentrates on the question of Palestine.

In a press statement released later in the day, the PLO office denounced "the devious terrorist methods used by the Zionist intelligence agents and death squads."

Such methods, the statement said, "reflect (the Zionists') [KUNA note] bankruptcy in facing the logic of justice rights of the Palestinian people."

Affirming that the PLO would "not allow these terror squads to pass unpunished," the statement expressed confidence in the Cypriot authorities' intention "to pursue the murderers and expose them and their backers to public opinion."

'Arafat AL-AHRAM Statement Discuses Egyptian Role
NC022230 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA) — PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed there is no alternative for the Arab nation at this time other than to act immediately and through all means reinstate Egypt to the leading role from which it has strayed. He has also affirmed Egypt's return to the Arab nation would rectify the course and restore the balance that has been upset.

In an exclusive statement to the Cairo newspaper *AL-AHRAM*, to be published Thrusday, 'Arafat said the courageous and responsible stands taken by President Husni Mubarak have proved to all that Egypt is committed to the [Arab] nation's causes. In this connection, he referred to Egypt's protection of the Palestinians following their departure from Tripoli and to the stand declared by President Mubarak in the White House calling for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, and his recent decision to sever diplomatic relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica.

'Arafat explained that since Egypt's absence from the Arab world, much has happened in the Arab world, and it is high time Egypt reoccupied its leading role in the Arab nation. He affirmed the Palestinian revolution would no longer allow any force to obstruct Egypt's return to the Arab arena.

In his interview with *AL-AHRAM*, Yasir 'Arafat comments on current events in Lebanon, saying that a plan to balkanize the region is being implemented. He said there is a plan to divide Lebanon into sectarian entities. 'Arafat described what is going on there as a U.S.-Israeli plot approved by certain Arab quarters.

'Arafat said: I bless the abrogation of the 17 May accord between Lebanon and Israel. However, it is my right to ask what the significance is behind the abrogation of the accord when the Maronite front opened offices in Jerusalem and when there is an Israeli office in B'abda in Beirut.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, Yasir 'Arafat said: Despite the dagger hanging in my back, I extend my hands on behalf of my [Palestinian] brothers to our Syrian brothers to restore the relations between the two sides on the basis of the independent Palestinian decision which we will never sell to any regime. He pointed out there is Arab and Soviet mediation to restore the relations between Syria and the PLO.

Regarding the PNC meetings, Yasir 'Arafat said: The dialogue commitee will meet again in Algiers on 9 May to prepare for those meetings we hope will convene no later than 25 May.

He added that following the failure of the dissidents and the rebellion, and the failure of the military liquidation and political assassination of the PLO, certain persons are trying to destroy the Palestinian legitimacy. He said the organizations with which we are now conducting a dialogue fall into two categories: The first conscientiously fought with us in defense of an independent Palestinian decisionmaking, and the second supports an independent Palestinian decisionmaking but did not defend this with its blood. We are conducting a democratic dialogue with them; the agents and mercenaries have no place among us.

Reacting to a question about the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile, 'Arafat pointed out that one day the Palestinian revolution will establish a government, not a government-in-exile, but a provisional government. However, the present circumstances are not yet suitable for this.

In his statement to *AL-AHRAM*, 'Arafat said: We ask much from Egypt. Palestine is an Egyptian issue as much as it is a Palestinian one. Egypt has given 88,000 martyrs from 1948 to the present. In other words, every Egyptian village has given over 22 martyrs for the Palestinian cause.

'Arafat said that Egypt's return to the Arab fold cannot be bargained for by any side; it is a return for the salvation of all. This is Egypt's destiny and its historic and pan-Arab responsibility. He added: I am addressing Egypt, which has a 7,000-year history of civilization, culture, and values. This deeply-rooted heritage will surmount all obstacles.

Concluding his statement, 'Arafat affirmed that as far as the Palestinian side is concerned, Egypt under Mubarak has returned to the Arab nation. This return will inevitably become complete soon, and matters will return to normal in the Arab arena.

Reportedly Stopped in Cairo

JN030702 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May (INA) — The Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* reported here today that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will visit China after his current visit to Jordan.

Citing a special dispatch by its correspondent in the Jordanian capital, the paper said 'Arafat's plane stopped over at Cairo Airport yesterday while enroute to the Jordanian capital.

Salah Khalaf Meets Syria's Khaddam in Riyadh

GF021514 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 1 May 84 p 1

[Text] *AL-QABAS* has learned that during his recent visit to Riyadh, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, met with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister, according to prior arrangement made in Kuwait during the meeting between Abu Iyad and Syrian Ambassador 'Isa Darwish. It was reported that the meeting came as a "partial solution" after Abu Iyad apologized for not responding to the invitation to visit Damascus because it must take place within the framework of a Fatah Central Committee delegation, with him as a member.

The information made available said Syria has taken a flexible position toward Fatah for two reasons. First, it has given up on the "dissidents" and second, Moscow has strengthened its stance of supporting the current PLO leadership, and Moscow refuses to recognize any other leadership.

The information that *AL-QABAS* received said that Geydar Aliyev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, demanded during his recent Syrian visit and during the session of talks with Khaddam that Syria must not attack Fatah, the organization or the people.

The information noted that Aliyev heard a different tone during his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who did not utter one critical word against anyone in Fatah during a 4-hour meeting. He was content with merely explaining Syria's relations with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, leaving it for Moscow to judge.

Palestinian Source on Dialogue, Syrian Ties

PM011036 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Apr 84 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Significant Shift in the Syrian Position"]

[Text] Amman— A leading Palestinian personality has told *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* there has been a significant shift in Syria's position on the question of intra-Palestinian differences and that Syria will attend the Palestinian dialogue conference expected to be held in Algiers this week.

Damascus has been the scene of extensive Palestinian activity in preparing to resume the Palestinian dialogue begun in Algiers last week and adjourned to allow the representatives who attended to refer back to their leadership with a view to drafting a formula for a wider dialogue to restore the solidarity of the Palestinian factions and preserve the independence of Palestinian national decisions.

Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee Member and a close associate of Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Damascus yesterday. [PLO Executive Committee member] Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, who lives in Cairo and has played a quiet part in creating the right atmosphere for the dialogue's success, is also expected to arrive in Damascus.

The Palestinian personality also told *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* the new atmosphere in Damascus will help the expansion of the dialogue conference, particularly following the television interview broadcast in Damascus last night in which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made a favorable reference to Yasir 'Arafat, a development the Palestinians received with satisfaction.

In his statement to *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, the Palestinian personality emphasized the atmosphere in Damascus has improved indeed, adding that Syria is now certain to attend the Palestinian dialogue conference as an observer, in addition to Algeria and Yemen.

Meanwhile, *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* has learned that a high-level Syrian-Palestinian meeting was held in Damascus yesterday. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received a Palestinian delegation led by [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine leader] Nayif Hawatimah. They reviewed the Algiers meeting and the positive trends which emerged from it. This meeting was preceded by a meeting between the Palestinian opposition factions — As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP —GC, and the Popular Struggle Front — and members of the democratic alliance factions which attended the Algiers meeting, nemely the DFLP, the PFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Palestine Liberation Front. During the meeting the opposition alliance was briefed on the results of the Algiers meeting.

The Palestinian personality told *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* there is an inclination now to resume the dialogue conference on a wider basis with the participation, in addition to the originals, of the ALF, As-Sa'iqah, and the PFLP-GC through their representatives 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Muhammad Khalifah, and

Talal Naji, along with the following independent members of the PLO Executive Committee: Muhammad Zuhdi an-Nashashibi, Hamid Abu Sittah, Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, Jamal as-Surani, Dr Hanna Nasir, and 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar.

AR-RIYADH Carries Fatah 'Organizational Directive'

PM021041 Riyadh AR-RIYADH in Arabic 19 Apr 84 pp 22,23

[Hamad al-'Askar and Ahmad ad-Duwayhi report: "Principles of Palestine National Liberation Movement's (Fatah) Stand in an 'Organizational Directive'"]

[Excerpts] *AR-RIYADH* has obtained a statement issued by the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Fatah) Central Committee explaining in detail the movement's attitude toward current developments in the Palestinian arena, its Arab and international political relations, and its attitude toward the Iraq-Iran war. The statement also deals with the organizational situation inside the Fatah movement and Fatah's relationship with the 'dissidents' and other Palestinian organizations.

AR-RIYADH pubishes substantial extracts from this statement which was distributed in the form of an "organizational directive" to members of the movement and its "partisans" in view of the statement's importance coming at a critical juncture in the Arab area. Fatah's "organizational directive" says:

The Political Situation

At its 14th conference, the Fatah movement endorsed the decisions adopted by the PNCs and considered them an action program for itself, thereby not only strengthening its belief in the PLO and further commiting itself to national unity but also commiting itself to the National Councils' resolutions as if they were the resolutions of its own conferences. Therefore, Fatah's political stand is the same as that of the PNC which is as follows:

1. Rejection of Camp David and the autonomy conspiracy.

2. Rejection of Reagan's initiative which denies our people's right to self determination and to establish an independent state of its own and refuses to recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

3. Rejection of any political stand that does not emanate from our people's right to return home and to determine their future and to establish an independent state on their own soil.

4. Commitment to the resolutions of our National Councils and the political and organizational program.

5. Commitment to the Fes summit resolution as the minimum level of Arab political action in the international arena for the restoration of national rights.

6. Commitment to the objective of achieving a confederation with Jordan as a union between two independent states and building bilateral relations on a clear and equal basis with the aim of achieving this objective.

7. Rapprochement with Egypt commensurate with its distancing itself from Camp David and coordinating with the Egyptian nationalist movement in this context.

8. Continued commitment to the Palestinian armed struggle until victory, escalating this struggle and exploiting it in strengthening our political and diplomatic struggle in the international arena and exploiting our success in this field to strengthen international recognition of our struggle's legitimacy.

9. Absolute commitment to our people's right to fully restore their national rights within the context of achieving our interim objectives, with a view to further consolidating and strengthening our people's national unity inside and outside the occupied homeland,commitment to their objectives, interim and strategic aspirations, and doing everything possible to support their steadfastness in the occupied homeland in all their stands against the Zionist enemy's settlement plans.

10. Commitment to rejecting the Zionist plans which could only be hostile to our people, to human rights, and to international legitimacy, particularly the plans for autonomy and for an alternative homeland and resisting all Judaization plans such as building settlements and the economic, cultural, social strangulation of our people in the occupied homeland.

11. Commitment to and exertion of every effort possible to preserve the safety and security of our people in Lebanon and preserve their right to a dignified life and to participation in the Palestinian struggle.

12. Commitment to the protection of our people's interests in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula to ensure their security and livelihood and enable them to effectively participate in our people's struggle and revolution.

13. Commitment to supporting the Lebanese nationalist forces with all we can in their struggle against U.S.-Zionist domination of Lebanon, in their confrontation with the occupying Zionist enemy, and in their struggle to preserve the Arabism, independence, and integrity of Lebanon and its people.

14. Considering the abrogation of the 17 May Lebanese-Zionist agreement a national and patriotic objective both for the Lebanese and Arab peoples because this abrogation would be an example of the failure of the U.S. Middle East policy and of the Zionist aggressive policy based on imposing the U.S.-Israeli peace by force on the Arab countries around Palestine.

15. Commitment to resisting the U.S. Middle East policy which is hostile to our people as it is identical with the Zionist policy characterized by its racism, hostility, and plans to balkanize the Middle East.

16. Commitment to deepening the ties of our international alliances with the socialist camp headed by the Soviet Union, with China, the OAU, the Islamic countries, and the nonaligned states; widening of the circle of friends in the enemy camp to exert more pressure on the forces hostile to our people and supporting aggressive Zionism. We must in this regard develop the European situation with the aim of reaching a unanimous and clear stand

recognizing the legitimacy of our struggle and our right to establish our state as well as our sole and legitimate representation of the Palestinian people.

The Jordanian Stand

In the recent past the Palestinian-Jordanian talks were suspended because of Reagan's plan. However, the Jordanian stand became clear as a result of the following:

1. The announcement by the Jordanian monarch regarding his readiness to establish Jordanian-Palestinian relations on the basis of discussions without preconditions.

2. The Jordanian monarch's speech before the European Parliament in Strasbourg in which he said the U.S.-Israel strategic alliance calls for dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict within the framework of an international conference to achieve an international balance.

3. Statements by Jordanian officials to the effect that the revival of the Jordanain Parliament aims at filling a constitutional vacuum and has no other political purposes. The assertion by these officials that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and cooperation with it is conducted on this basis.

This public and official change in the Jordanian attitude makes it incumbent upon us to make a positive change in our attitude toward it because political struggle deals with situations and agrees with them if they agree with it and disagrees with them if they disagree with it. Therefore, change bcomes something natural and necessary because the focus centers on the cause and the people.If there is no identity or compatibility of stands, then cooperation will be confined to the common areas of agreement and matters agreed upon without jeopardizing the basic political strategy and the declared interim objective.

U.S. Middle East Policy

One of the established facts of our present era is that the U.S. Middle East policy is one hostile and contrary to the interests and national rights of the Palestinian people.

1. The United States believes the focus and center of gravity of its Middle East policy is the strong military presence of the Zionist entity in our country, Palestine. This entity represents a U.S. military base, the training of whose army and its armaments are of the same standard as that of the U.S. Army, with both having a central operations room directly linked to NATO's.

2. As a result of this fact which has recently been increasingly corroborated in public official documents and political statements and data, the Zionist plans have freedom of action in the Middle East as part of the U.S. plans in the area. Also, the world Zionist movement has freedom to campaign in the United States with the support of U.S. media and officialdom to influence the public opinion and justify the U.S. Administration's hostile stands against our masses and nation under the pretext of protecting the Zionist entity.

Therefore, the contradiction between us and this policy is one between the objectives of the United States and the Zionist enemy's policy on one hand and the objectives of our people and its national rights on the other. Accordingly, U.S. policy has been and will be rejected. Therefore, the starting point in our discussion of any U.S. idea or initiative could only proceed from the full recognition of our people's right to self-determination and national independence and recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of this people. Anything short of this is rejected out of hand.

Therefore, we should direct our information campaign toward the American people with a view to bringing about a change in the misled public opinion and directing it to the right path as one of the means of bringing pressure to bear on the U.S. Administration to bring about a change in its Middle East policy toward our interim objectives at least.

On the Organizational and Internal Level

Before the dissidents carried arms against members of Fatah movement in Al-Biqa' the leadership or the organizational base could have held a dialogue with them to bring them to the right path without resort to a disciplinary trial, thus giving them an opportunity to state their views at the movement's conference.

Before the dissidents and their allies (As-Sa'iqah, An-Nidal, and Ahmad Jibril's group) took up arms against our people and kinsfolk in the camps, it would have been possible to conduct a dialogue with them in the context of a disciplinary trial.

But having taken up arms against our people in the Al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps, they have not only strayed from the Palestinian struggle course of action and from the Fatah movement but have also been condemned by the Palestinian people; they have been expelled from the context of the Palestinian people's national struggle when the people, thanks to their deep awareness, decided to isolate them and not deal with them in the camps, demonstrated against them, and rejected their views. Therefore, there is no question of returning them to the ranks of the struggle or to the movement's ranks. Moreover they have become tools in the hands of two Arab states and a non-Arab state serving non-Palestinian objectives, particularly since their bombing of the camps has placed them on equal footing with Begin, Sharon, and the Phalangists, regardless of their declared objectives. Therefore, the decision regarding their fate is final and irrevocable. With regard to those people below command level who have been misled, their situation is under consideration and measures regarding them will shortly be taken within the framework of legal proceedings.

Arab League Delegation Discusses Gulf War in Bonn

For Hamburg DPA and other reportage on the visit to the Federal Republic of Germany by a seven-member Araab League delegation, including their talks with Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher on the status of negotiations to end the Gulf war, see the Federal Republic of Germany section of the 3 May Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

BAHRAIN

Amir Receives Japanese Premier's Message

GF021328 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Manama, 2 May (QNA) — Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone dealing with bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening them, in addition to issues of mutual interest.

WAKH reported that the message was conveyed by Yoshio Sakurauchi, former Japanese foreign minister and the Japanese prime minister's envoy, during a meeting with the amir of Bahrain today. The Japanese envoy arrived in Manama last night on a 1-day visit to Bahrain within the framework of his tour to a number of the region's countries.

KUWAIT

Ambassador Denies Kuwait May Ask U.S. Aid

LD021108 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 2 (KUNA) — Kuwait's ambassador in Washington Shaykh Sa'ud as-Sabah was quoted as saying in an interview published here Wednesday that Kuwait is committed to the non-aligned policy and rejects the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf region.

Shaykh Sa'ud was commenting on a lengthy report published by the *WASHINGTON POST* newspaper yesterday which quoted a Western diplomat as claiming that "there are signs that Kuwait might request assistance from the U.S. in case of emergency."

Shaykh Sa'ud told *AL-WATAN* daily newspaper that "those are baseless speculations," adding that "those rumors had surfaced during the visit made by Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Salim as-Sabah to Washington."

The Kuwaiti ambassador pointed out that Shaykh Salim's visit to Washington had come at the invitation of his American counterpart for consultations on Kuwait's requirements for American-made weapons, adding that "if we do not buy what suits us from Washington we will buy elsewhere."

Students Complain of Maltreatment in UK

GF021828 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 1 May 84 p 28

[Article by Salih ash-Shaiji: "Did You Hear the News From Hull"?]

[Text] Is it true that the youths are the wealth of the nation, or is that merely a slogan in speeches? If it is the truth, let us approach this subject calmly and then reply calmly from a position close to the truth.

A very minor complaint, about the size of an ant's eye, more or less, was published in one of our newspapers from Kuwaiti students studying in British "Hull" country [Kingston upon Hull].

The compalint published on the reader's page of that newspaper read: We Kuwaiti students studying in British "Hull" country are facing acts of violence and have been physically abused many times by the residents of this country. Four of us have been admitted into the hospital unconscious, and one has been blinded after being subjected to such violent acts such as being attacked with an iron bar and glass and being stoned. All this because we are Arabs and Muslims and the residents of this cursed country are extremely racist.

We want to publicize this complaint by our students, especially to the officials of the Education Ministry. We also want the members of the National Assembly to know about it, because those youths are not oil that can be compensated, nor shares subject to raise or fall, but are the real wealth that we put our hopes on.

We are not going to investigate the past of our English "brothers" and open the black or red pages of their past with us, that is in the past. However, we have before us a case that might seem simple to some, but in fact it is very serious. One youth will return to his parents blind, and another will be returned in a coffin amidst the wailing and tears of his parents instead of their cries of joy for his return with a diploma.

This case does not affect me personally nor is it an isolated incident. But because of its significance, it interests me as a citizen, as it should officials as well as anyone who is interested in preserving and protecting our youths.

I believe that those youths only sent their complaint to the newspaper after repeatedly contacting our Embassy in Britain, and the cultural attache personally, in the hope of getting protection. It should be duly noted that they are citizens of a country that has longstanding ties with Britain and that they are not citizens of an imaginary country.

Oh those who hear the word, let us pray for guidance.

Briefs

Bahraini Envoy Departs — Kuwait, May 2 (KUNA) — State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn received Wednesday the Bahraini ambassador to Kuwait Saif Jaba al-Musallan. The envoy's visit to the minister comes as a farewell meeting before departing the country after the termination of his mission in Kuwait. Discussion during the meeting covered bilateral relations. [Excerpt] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1219 GMT 2 May 84 LD]

OMAN

Briefs

Envoys' Credentials — Sultan Qabus received Allen Dewana Brown and Celso Diniz, who presented copies of their credentials

as the Austrialian and Brazilian ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Oman. [Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 84 GF]

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Receives USIA Director Wick 2 May

GF021646 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received at the royal court today a number of citizens who came to pay tribute. His majesty also received at his office today the director of the U.S. Information Agency, Charles Wick. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Information 'Ali ash-Sha'ir and the U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom, Leon Cutler.

Soviet Policy in Afghanistan Criticized

PM021441 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 27 Apr p 3

[Editorial: "The Expected Soviet Offensive Against Afghan Mujahidin"]

[Excerpts] When the United States, which has the world's most up-to-date information-gathering facilities, announces that the Soviet Union is concentrating large military forces in order to launch a large-scale military offensive against the Afghan mujahidin with the beginning of spring, this shows that the Soviet Union is bent on subjugating the Afghan people who are demanding freedom and defending national sovereignty.

The Soviet Union, despite its great strength and all the red devil's methods to which it resorts, has failed utterly to win the Muslim Afghan people's acquiescence to the occupation of their country; it has also failed to impose on the Afghan people by force of arms the acceptance of communism as a substitute for Islam.

The Soviet Union has turned its back on all its glittering political slogans by which it has for so long deceived some of the naive among the peoples of the Third World who are demanding freedom, independence, and national sovereignty. With its aggression against Afghanistan it is adopting a stand quite contrary to those slogans by which it falsely claims that it supports the underdog peoples and that it is their friend and helps them in their struggle for freedom and independence.

By occupying Afghanistan the Soviet Union has shown its true ugly face as a new colonialist country at a time when the sun has set on all the colonialist powers. The Soviet Union wants to inherit the old Western colonialist countries that have been forced by the peoples to give up the policies of expansion, domination, hegemony, and exploitation of the small countries' resources.

By occupying Afghanistan with forces the Soviet Union has put itself in a very difficult position and shown its true internationalist identity by placing its Afghan communist agents in positions of power and protecting them with the force of arms against the anger of the free-willed Muslim Afghan people.

The Communist regime in the Soviet Union, imposed by force on the Russian people 60 years ago, is afraid of the mounting Islamic tide in some of its republics and among its neighbors, such as Afghanistan. It is also afraid of the growing birth rate among the Muslim population of its republics and the increasing number of people among them converting to Islam. The Communist regime sees in this a real danger to communism, particularly since the CPSU has failed during its 60 years of rule to win over the masses of the Russian people to join its membership.

The Afghan people are not a primitive or pagan people or a people without a religion or creed enabling the Soviet Union to aspire to drag them into the fold of atheist communism. They are a people that believes in the Islamic message and creed and thathas its own glorious cultural heritage which it built with its deep belief in Islam as a religion, a creed, and a way of life.

The Soviet Union's attempts to erase the Afghan people's glorious Islamic cultural history and open a new chapter to write history through communism should be a sufficient warning to the world peoples in general and to the Third World in particular against the Soviet Union's serious hostile designs against their freedom, independence, and national sovereignty and the threat they pose of undermining their beliefs.

YAR

Salih Arranged Naval Arms Deal With France

GF021438 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 1 May 84 pp 1, 17

[Exclusive report]

[Excerpt] *AS-SIYASAH* has learned that during the recent visit of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to France and his meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand the YAR president managed to convince France to sell a number of naval weapons, including missile-launching boats, training ships, and an air defense system of Crotale missiles, to strengthen the YAR's naval and air defense. This action is within the framework of its strategic policy of diversifying the sources of weapons.

This will be the main topic of the Yemeni-Saudi summit which began yesterday as the YAR urgently seeks to obtain sources to finance this defense deal for the Yemeni Armed Forces.

President Receives Cable From Chernenko

GF021836 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received a congratulatory cable from Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the occasion of 1 May, International Labor Day.

Hasan 'Ali Calls Al-Qadhdhafi 'Insane'

AU021130 Vienna KURIER in German 2 May 84 p 3

[Heinz Nussbaumer report on interview with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali in Cairo on 30 April]

[Text] The sharpest ever attacks against the Libyan ruler Al-Qadhdhafi have now been launched by Libya's big neighbor, Egypt: In a sensational *KURIER* interview Kamal Hasan 'Ali, foreign minister, declared in Cairo that Al-Qadhdhafi was "clearly insane" [eindeutig verrueckt] and constituted a "threat to the whole world." He revealed that the Libyan had already been a patient in an Egyptian psychiatric clinic.

These spectacular statements were made on Monday at the end of talk which Kamal Hasan 'Ali — he is also deputy prime minister and one of the potential successors to the current prime minister — held with seven journalists from four continents who had been invited by the United Nations for a fact-finding mission to the Middle East.

During this talk the Egyptian suddenly spoke about "our insane neighbor Al-Qadhdhafi." This led to the following dialogue:

KURIER: "Insane — is that a political or a medical assessment?"

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "That is an assessment of his mental condition."

KURIER: "What are your reasons for saying that?"

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "Specifically I am saying this because soon after the Libyan revolution (1969) Al-Qadhdhafi was for 2 months a patient in one of our hospitals for mental cases, or let us better call it a psychiatric clinic."

KURIER: "What do the doctors call his illness?"

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "I am not a doctor, there are so many terms in the laboratory [as published] of psychiatry: schizophrenia, depression — I am not an expert on that. But let us just look at his attitude: Here he is trying to establish contact with us and he is constantly sending us messengers — and at the very same time he is cursing us on Libyan radio."

Question (by London *OBSERVER*): "Does this attitude, however, justify the assumption that Al-Qadhdhafi is a threat to the whole world?"

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "But of course he is a genuine threat — everywhere in Africa and beyond it."

KURIER: "Does he get the support of the Soviet Union for his actions?"

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "That I don't know, but the Soviets are at least those who benefit from them."

KURIER: "In talks with Europeans Al-Qadhdhafi has presented himself as a man who would like to pursue a different policy but who is a prisoner of his pro-Soviet advisers...."

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "That is nonsense! He picked these advisers himself. He fetched to his country advisers from East Germany, from Yugoslavia, and from Bulgaria — in addition to 4,000 Soviet experts."

Question (Stockholm *DAGENS NYHETER*): "Are there any permanent Soviet military bases in Libya?"

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "There are some — for example, the Soviet Navy has such installations in the Gulf of Bomba."

KURIER: "What does Al-Qadhdhafi really want?"

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "In 1976 he told one of my colleagues: 'Israel has 3 million people, Libya has 2 and 1/2 million — why should we not be just as strong as the Israelis?' Thus he keeps buying arms from the Soviets. In 1979, for example, he signed $11 billion worth of delivery contracts. Libya's total revenues from oil exports that year totaled $21 billion."

KURIER: "Quite a few people say that Al-Qadhdhafi's rule is now finally endangered following the the Libyan Embassy affair in London."

Kamal Hasan 'Ali: "Yes, Al-Qadhdhafi is endangered. As far as we are concerned, we leave him alone if he leaves us alone. If he attacks the Sudanese, then we will come to their aid — we have a pact. We have told Al-Qadhdhafi: 'You must restrain yourself there, or there will be a massive blow from us.' If he provokes the Egyptians, we will answer him. We showed him in July 1977 how this is done. Perhaps he will send us his bombers some day. We have repeatedly attempted to divert him from his policy, but this man cannot be dissuaded. I believe that, as far as Al-Qadhdhafi is concerned, nothing short of a major surgery could help."

Contract Signed To Purchase Soviet Iron Ore

PM020919 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Apr 84 p 9

['Abd al-Malik Khalil report: "Agreement With Soviet Union for Purchase of 15,000 Tons of Iron Ore"]

[Text] Egypt and the Soviet Union have signed a contract under which the Soviet Union will supply Egypt with 15,000 tons of iron ore by the end of this year. The value of the contract is 3 million pounds sterling.

The contract was signed by an Egyptian delegation headed by Muhammad as-Sayyid Fahmi, director of the Arab foreign trading company.

The delegation also held contacts with senior officials in Soviet industrial establishments to discuss the possibility of supplying galvanized pipes, sheet metal, hand tools, and drills, beginning next year.

Another Egyptian delegation failed to reach an agreement with the Soviet side for the supply of quantities of iron alloys which are of special importance for the Egyptian steel industry to produce good quality steel, despite the inclusion of these alloys in the trade and payments agreement concluded between Egypt and the Soviet Union in 1984. Egypt was supposed to import 10,000 tons of these iron alloys.

An Egyptian source said the Soviet side has declined to offer any quantity of these alloys.

These alloys were among the goods and raw material that Egypt used to import during the years in which economic, trade, and industrial relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union flourished.

Ghali Addresses African Diplomats on Relations

NC021435 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed the importance of resolving African disputes through peaceful means and consolidating the notion of African unity through the OAU. He also underlined the need for establishing groups comprised of African countries aimed at achieving economic integration among them.

Addressing the inaugural session of the seminar of the French-speaking African diplomats organized by the Foreign Ministry, Dr Ghali stressed the importance of enhancing Egyptian-African relations and Egypt's readiness to supply African countries with the technical know-how to boost development throughout the continent. Dr Ghali cited Egyptian-Sudanese integration and the technical aid that Egypt extends to fraternal African countries.

Severance of Ties To Be 'Diplomatic Deterrent'

NC021439 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 May 84

['Abd al-'Azim Hammad commentary: "President Mubarak Introduces a Diplomatic Principle on the Jerusalem Issue"]

[Text] In his May Day speech yesterday, President Husni Mubarak repeated the reasons behind Egypt's decision to sever relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica in response to their having transferred their embassies from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The president's course of action was necessary and will serve as a diplomatic deterrent in Egypt's foreign policy.

Egypt's decision to sever diplomatic relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica was made, as President Mubarak pointed out yesterday, not out of love for severing relations, but out of concern for preserving international law and the rule of law, to protect the legal and historic rights of over 100 million Arabs, 800 million Muslims, and 1 billion Christians.

Therefore, the significance of severing relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador because of their actions to move their embassies to Jerusalem goes beyond mere reaction to action itself. In other words, the decision was not merely meant to denounce two small states that ignored international law, but also to illustrate Egypt's eagerness to regain the rights of the Arabs, Muslims and Christians in Jerusalem as a genuine principle of its foreign policy.

In his speech yesterday, President Mubarak said verbatim: This decision represents a firm line in our policy that is applied to our relationship with all states without exception. This shows that the action representing the significance of the severance of relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador constitutes a full-fledged deterrent in the diplomatic sphere. In other words, it really represents a warning to all countries throughout the world that have diplomatic relations with Israel that Egypt will not hesitate to sever relations with any state — be it big or small — if it ignores the rights of Arabs and international law and transfers its embassy to Jerusalem.

Undoubtedly the big countries that pursue global strategies are aware that their relations with Egypt will be severed if they transfer their embassies to Jerusalem. This will represent a major strategic setback for them, because the issue will not be confined to the severance of relations. The severance of relations in this instance will only be an indicator showing the various principled ways of handling the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Hence, President Mubarak's speech yesterday bequeathed Egyptian diplomacy with a principle like the Hallstein doctrine according to which West Germany used to deter countries against recognizing East Germany before West Germany itself recognized it. Moreover, President Mubarak gave diplomacy a principle similar to that followed by the Taiwan Government when it severed relations with any state that recognized the PRC.

It remains to point out that Egypt's initiative to sever relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador and the Egyptian president's initiative to turn this precedent into a genuine element of Egyptian diplomacy will constitute a pioneering precedent in the diplomacy of the Arab and Islamic worlds. Furthermore, these initiatives illustrate Egypt's leading and effective role in Arab and Islamic policy. Therefore, the world will have to face collective Arab and Muslim stands on the future of Jerusalem. This stand could develop to include the various Middle East problems.

Hasayn Warns of Stepped-Up Blocade of Khark Island

GF030450 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 3 May 84 p 2

[Text] Iraq yesterday acknowledged that its air force, using French-built Super Etendard jets, last week attacked a chartered Saudi Arabian oil tanker *Safina Al-'Arab* in the Gulf, causing a blaze that was put out 48 hours later. The acknowledgement ended a week of silence about the incident in both Baghdad and Riyadh.

President Saddam Husayn, meeting Kuwaiti editors in Baghdad, did not name the 350,000-ton tanker or its ownership, but made it clear the attack was on "a ship of which the international press has spoken a great deal." This was seen in Kuwait as a clear reference to the *Safina Al-'Arab*, owned by a Saudi company in which the Saudi state has a 40 per cent stake, and chartered by a Swedish shipping company, Salen Tanker.

According to the Iraqi president, quoted by the Kuwaiti press yesterday, the Iraqi planes attacked the tanker because the chartering company has used it to load Iranian oil at Iran's Khark Island terminal in the Gulf.

Iraq, which has been at war with Iran for nearly four years and has warned shipping away from a self-declared exclusion zone in the northern Gulf, has recently attacked several "naval objectives," including an Arab ship, he said. It would attack any such objective in the zone, particularly those carrying oil from Khark Island, and its steps to blockade the island would be increased soon, he warned.

The Iraqi president urged "brother Arab" nations to avoid the loading of their ships at Khark Island when they had dealings with foreign charters.

Meanwhile Salen, the company that chartered the *Safina Al-'Arab* indicated it is no longer interested in sailing to Khark Island. Salen Tank operates 16 tankers and has a minority share in the Saudi company owning the 178,000-ton *Safina Al-'Arab* which, Swedish shipping sources said, was struck by a missile some 100 miles southeast of Khark on the night of April 25.

Shipping sources in Norway said the Swedish shipowners' association asked successfully for a meeting with its Norwegian counterpart in Gothenburg, Sweden, on Friday to co-ordinate future policy on sailings to Khark.

Further on Kuwaiti Interview

JN031229 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 3 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said Iraq will continue its military preparations and escalated strikes at oil installations on the Iran's Khark Island. Speaking at a recent press conference in Baghdad with the chief editors of Kuwaiti papers published here today, the president added that Iraq will endeavor to push Iranian officials to a position of disability so that the talk about the use of armed force to achieve expansionist designs would become unacceptable inside Iran.

The president noted that Iraq can achieve this strategic objective through certain methods in the political and military fields.

The president explained that the method in the military field will be to foil Iranian offensives and to prevent them from achieving their objectives on Iraqi territory. On the other hand, the method in the political field will ebb to make Arab and Iraqi motives understood by the Iranian peoples "because we are their enemies only when they become our enemies."

President Saddam Husayn expressed his belief that the Iranian voice rejecting the continuation of the war is now widely heard even inside Iran. Such a development, he said, is bound to affect the decision of the ruler, because the ruler does not fight with his sword but with those who carry swords. And, when he does not find anyone that is ready to carry the sword he will not be able to cross the border.

The president said that the popular situation in Iraq now is better than it was in 1979 or 1980 — that is before and after the outbreak of the war — in the sense that there is now firm belief in and optimism over our view of the future and a clear vision that "we were right in fighting the invaders. This belief exists in the child, the women, the old man, and the fighter on the front."

President Saddam Husayn described the Iraqi-Kuwaiti relations as excellent on the official level. He said there is exchange of views on all aspects of these relations and on issues of joint Arab concern, pointing out that Iraq views its interests and those of Kuwait as interests of two fraternal neighbors. Their joint security has become obvious as one of the results of the war. [sentence as received]

The president called for Egypt's return to the Arab League while keeping diplomatic relations with it suspended. He said Egypt is participating in Arab decisionmaking and is interacting with its brothers who also are interacting with it within the Arab League and on the summit level.

On the Iranian threats to close the Hormuz Strait, the president said that if the Iranians close the strait they will close their noses with their own hands and die. The threat to close the strait is suicidal. On relations with Turkey, the president said that theyr are brotherly, friendly relations not only in words but also in deeds. He said Turkey is an Islamic state which is adjacent to the Arab homeland. We must be careful to maintain friendship with it and to develop relations with it in the service of the Turkish and Arab peoples.

The president revealed that the Iraqi Super Etendards have recently hit a number of naval targets, one of which was an Arab ship leased to a foreign side. It was then leased to Iran and came to the [Khark] Island. He said our current blockade of Khark Island is not the end of our means. The blockade will be enhanced and we will not confine our actions to striking naval targets. Iraq, he said, will aim at Khark Island whenever it feels that it is in Iraq's national interest and within its future envisionment. The president said that any responsible Arab brother in the Gulf who neglects his internal security will be responsible before history and Arab security. He warned against the foreign element which is increasing in the Gulf.

The president said that in harassing Jordan, the Syrian regime aims to change Jordan into a card to play with it on the Arab and internaitonal levels as it did in Lebanon or part of it. The president described RCC Member and first Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan's visit to the USSR as very good on all levels.

The president expressed hope that the Arab position will be strengthened. He said Iraq blesses any agreement between the Palestinian and Jordanian brothers.

Communique No 1,453: 'Enemy' Naval Target Hit
JN021637 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 84

[Communique No 1,453 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 2 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their valiant defense of the cherished homeland and the dignity of the glorious Arab nation. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Bold formations of our helicopter gunships today carried out daring and surprise attacks on enemy targets in the operational area east of Basra, scoring direct hits on the enemy vehicles and equipment, destroying seven vehicles of various types, and inflicting losses on the enemy positions and troop concentrations. All our helicopter gunships returned safely, praise be to God.

2. One of our forward units attacked the enemy positions, troop concentrations, and engineering vehicles in the operational area east of Basra with artillery and other weapons, killing 12, wounding others, and destroying 4 vehicles and a hardware stockpile.

3. One of our brave naval units intercepted a medium-size enemy naval target which was trying to approach one of our ports this afternoon. The target was directly hit and columns of smoke were seen billowing from it.

4. One of our forward units fired on an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing two and destroying one vehicle and two infantry positions.

5. Last night and today, the criminal Iranian regime shelled Basra, Mandali, Sayyid Sadiq, Shandri, and their environs with heavy artillery, damaging one house in Basra, three houses and one civilian car in Mandali, and several civilian establishments in Sayyid Sadiq and Shandri.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 May 1984

Severing Ties With Costa Rica, El Salvador Urged
JN030849 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0822 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 3 May (INA) — Iraq has appealed to the Islamic, nonaligned, and peace-loving states to sever diplomatic relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador for transferring their embassies to occupied Jerusalem. In a statement today, a Foreign Ministry official spokesman said that Iraq will take all the effective measures against any state that transfers its embassy to occupied Jerusalem. Iraq denounced the action of these two states which is counter to the resolutions of the Islamic conferences and the 1980 UN Security Council Resolution No 478 in this regard.

The spokesman said that this measure constitutes a blatant challenge to the desire of the international community. It will encourage the occupiers to continue their hostile policy, expansionist plans, annexation of Arab territories, and the establishment of Zionist settlements thus denying the Arab and Palestinian people's rights.

'Arafat Makes Visit, Meets With Husayn, Others

Plane Lands, Delayed

JN030759 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 May 84 p 1

[Nabil 'Amr dispatch]

[Text] Amman — The privately owned Tunisian plane (Tunisia) carrying Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman arrived at Amman Civil Airport a few hours late. It was learned the plane landed at Cairo airport and was delayed for 2 hours. The plane, for security reasons, also flew over Africa.

Arrives, Makes Statement

JN021651 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Amman — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman,has praised the strong and growing relations between Jordan and the PLO which are based on understanding and a mutual desire and effort to liberate the occupied Arab territories. He added: These relations, which all of us are eager to support and develop, are devoted to the interest of our one Jordanian-Palestinian people and the interests of our Arab nation.

In a press statement made upon arrival in Amman this afternoon, 'Arafat said: I am pleased to be in Amman today to continue dialogue with His Majesty King Husayn and other officials on supporting the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action to serve the objectives of our one people. He added: The Jordanian-Palestinian talks have made great progress regarding coordination and understanding, and my visit to Amman today is aimed at completing these talks.

Asked about the outcome of the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee recently held in Fes, 'Arafat said: The results were positive and several resolutions were made on the Palestine question.

The committee decided the Islamic countries should sever diplomatic relations with any country that moves its embassy to occupied Jerusalem. This decision was applied to El Salvador and Costa Rica.

'Arafat was received by Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Shawkat Mahmud, minister of occupied territories; the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces; Dr Hanna Nasir and 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, PLO Executive Committee members; 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Amman; 'Ala' ad-Din Husayn, charge d'affairs at the organization's office in Amman; Colonel Na'im al-Khatib, Palestinian Liberation Army commander in Jordan; Najib al-Ahmad, director of the office of the Palestinian forces general commander; Rawhi al-Khatib, the mayor of Jerusalem; 'Abd al-Hamid as-Sa'ih, chairman of the Jerusalem Salvation Committee; and a number of PNC members in Jordan.

More on Statement

JN021956 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpts] Amman — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has praised the strong and growing relations between Jordan and the PLO — relations based on understanding and a mutual desire and effort to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

In a press statement upon his arrival in Amman this afternoon, 'Arafat said: Several committees and popular and government funds in many Islamic countries were also formed to support the struggle of our kinfolk in the occupied territories, to increase the Jerusalem endowment fund, and to extend quick support for the Jordanian-Palestinian committee. 'Arafat also said that these positive resolutions were reached primarily due to the effective Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in the conference.

Asked about reports that he called for a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis under the UN canopy, 'Arafat said: Regarding this issue, I wanted to refer to the international conference for solidarity with the Palestinian people that was held in Geneva last year. The conference issued what is known as the Geneva Declaration, which was unanimously approved by the UN General Assembly in its meeting last year. This declaration was referred to the UN secretary general for a follow up. As is known, the declaration was presented to the Security Council and did not gain the endorsement of the Council as result of the U.S. veto. Israel also rejected the declaration. He added: This joint rejection is not new because the United States and Israel continue to adopt a policy hostile to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Talks To Bolster Unity

JN021906 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 2 May 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpts] Yasir 'Arafat today denied expressing hope that Cairo will agree to the transfer of the PLO's headquarters and forces to Egypt. He added that he had no knowledge of this and that he had only asked President Husni Mubarak to allow the opening of the Palestinian Research Center in Cairo, a request which was accepted.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was talking to reporters following his arrival in Amman this afternoon on an official visit of several days. Shortly after his arrival, he met with King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

Abu 'Ammar said his talks with King Husayn are aimed at bolstering the unified march for the sake of rescuing the territory and boosting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people. He praised Jordanian-Palestinian relations and said they are growing quickly and are based on the joint desire to march together along one road.

It seems that the results of the new Jordanian-Palestinian talks will be relatively limited due to the absence of Arab or international factors [istihqaqat] which would force the two sides to adopt specific stands, and due to the continuing Palestinian differences over the aims of the dialogue with Jordan.

Abu 'Ammar's talks in Amman will deal particularly with the subject of bolstering the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territory. Yasir 'Arafat will also discuss with the Jordanian side the subject of some Palestinian detainees in Jordan, who staged a hunger strike in the last few weeks protesting their arrest, according to Palestinian sources. However, Jordanian officials emphasize that investigation will follow normal channels in this regard.

Yasir 'Arafat arrived about 4 hours late. Contacts were held with the PLO's offices in Cairo, Tunis, and Paris to inquire about the reason for the delay. Abu 'Ammar left Tunis early this morning and arrived in Amman 9 hours later.

Chairs Meeting With Husayn

JN021856 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Palestinian side, led by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, are now holding a meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court.

It is attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Ahmad 'Ubaydat, prime minister, Marwan al-Qasim, Royal Court chief, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, court minister, Shawkat Mahmud, occupied territories minister, and Raja'i ad-Dajani, Royal Court secretary general. It is attended on the Palestinian side by 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad and Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee members; Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee representative in Jordan; and Sulayman ash-Shurafa, Fatah Revolutionary Council member. The meeting was still in session at the time of this bulletin.

Regional Issues Discussed

JN022138 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] The Jordanian side led by His Majesty King Husayn and the Palestinian side led by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a 4-hour meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening, interrupted by a working dinner.

During the meeting, developments in the occupied Arab territories were discussed, and the two sides agreed to continue to support the kinfolk's steadfastness and their adherence to the soil of their homeland. They stressed the need to contact brotherly Arab countries to ensure all necessary requirements for this support, which will enable the brothers and the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories to confront the premeditated Israeli plots, which aim at weakening their resistance to occupation.

The two sides affirmed their joint condemnation of any measure that encroaches on the legitimate Arab rights, and condemned in particular the attempts to move embassies to Jerusalem. The Jordanian and Palestinian sides hailed the countries that adopted a clear-cut stand by severing their diplomatic relations with the parties that moved their embassies to Jerusalem.

During the talks, the two sides stressed the need to make every possible effort to halt the Iranian aggression against brotherly Iraq, to enable Iraq to save its potentials for defending Arab rights and serving the higher Arab interests.

Further Materials on Arrest of Three Israelis

Israel 'Engineered' Incident

NC021804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The arrest of three Israelis at a checkpoint manned by Syrian forces in Jisr al-Madfun on the northern governorate's border received the attention of political and diplomatic circles today in view of the implications and complications the incident may have for the current situation between Syria and Israel. This is so especially because the available information indicates that the incident was engineered by Israel to push matters to a certain point that could pave the way for a wide-scale Israeli aggression against Syria.

According to information available from security sources and eyewitnesses, the incident occurred at approximately 1300 yesterday when the three Israelis — who, according to Tel Aviv's claim, are employees of the Israeli Liaison Bureau in Ad-Dubayyah — managed to go through a Lebanese Forces checkpoint in Al-Barbarah and then to go through the Lebanese Army roadblock in a northerly direction. The three Israelis were riding in a U.S.-made vehicle. It has been reported that there were officers among them.

Eyewitnesses added that when the vehicle went through the Lebanese Army checkpoint, which is approximately 1 km from the Syrian checkpoint, it turned in order to continue its trip to the north, but before reaching the Syrian roadblock stopped suddenly and attempted to reverse itself. This aroused the suspicion of the men manning the checkpoint and those stationed in positions on a hill overlooking the road. They opened machine gun fire in the direction of the vehicle, hitting its tires. It appears that the driver could not make a complete turn, and the vehicle veered to the side of the road leading north and came to a halt half on the road and half off.

As soon as the shooting took place, the Lebanese Army members thought that the fire was directed at them. They went on alert, but the Syrian soldiers rushed up to the three Israelis and arrested them. It has been repeated that one of the Israelis sustained serious wounds.

Traffic movement [on the road] returned to normal today but it has been observed that the Lebanese and the Syrian checkpoints have been meticulously examining the identity of passengers, especially because the three Israelis did not present their identity cards at the Lebanese Army checkpoint, according to a responsible military source. The source said that the men at the checkpoint did not ask them to do so.

A Lebanese military source today denied that the Lebanese Army had stopped the members of the Israeli bureau, emphasizing that the vehicle that was carrying the three Israelis was subjected to gunfire after it had gone through the checkpoint and before it arrived at the Syrian forces' checkpoint in Jisr al-Madfun. Despite this Lebanese denial, Israel laid the blame on Lebanon and held the Lebanese government responsible for the fate of the three Israelis.

However, AFP has reported that the status of the Israeli bureau is linked with the negotiations that took place among Lebanon, Israel, and the United States and that resulted in the 17 May agreement. When the said agreement was abrogated, the presence of the bureau became illegal and the Israelis should have closed it down. However, Israel did not do so and the bureau remained in its place, carrying out the task for which it was set up.

An official Lebanese source has emphasized that after the 17 May agreement was abrogated, Lebanon officially requested that the Israeli bureau be closed, but the request fell on deaf ears because the bureau is located in an area that is not under the control of the legitimate Lebanese authorities, as an Israeli spokesman claimed at the time.

In addition to this, eyewitnesses said that an Israeli gunboat was at sea accompanying [as heard] the Israeli vehicle. The boat was seen today in the sea off the shore of 'Amshit.

Liaison Bureau Described

NC022030 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Informed sources have stated that the Lebanese-Israeli Liaison Bureau was established in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982 for the purpose of dealing with military affairs resulting from the occupation. These sources add that the bureau consequently has no diplomatic status, and its work is restricted to military affairs. In the past and through the efforts of the liaison bureau, a number of roads that had been closed by the Israelis were reopened; a number of kidnapped military personnel were released; and the transportation of fuel and flour on the Beirut-Sidon Road was ensured, when the Israelis were in Khaldah. Some emergency matters were also dealt with.

The sources emphasized that the 17 May agreement did not provide for the bureau because its work is purely military. The sources said the Lebanese Government had requested that the bureau's work be restricted to dealing with field issues.

Secret Israeli Delegation Arrives

LD022008 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Amman, 2 May, (KUNA) — An urgent report received by KUNA this afternoon from occupied Palestine reveals that an Israeli military delegation traveled by helicopter at dawn today to Jawwaniyah, north of Beirut, on a secret visit aimed at holding talks with the Phalangists regarding the capture of three Israelis who were working at an Israeli representative office in east Beirut. The report said the three Israelis were members of the Liaison Commission in Lebanon, and that one of them was an officer in military intelligence.

Members of the delegation will (?investigate) the details of the incident. The report said the delegation included Major General Ehud Baraq, director of military intelligence; Major General David 'Ivri, deputy chief of staff-IDF; the head of the Mossad apparatus, whose name is censored by law; and the deputy director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The report

stressed that the delegation met yesterday with the head of the enemy government, Yitzhaq Shamir, and Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens, in the presence of Chief of Staff-IDF Moshe Levi and the coordinator of operational affairs in Lebanon, (Khouri Libran). The report indicated that Phalangist political and military officials led by Phalangist military commander Fadi Afram and former Lebanese President Camille Sham'un's son were there to welcome the Israeli delegation in Jawwaniyah.

Cabinet Meeting Ends; Karami Calls for Cooperation

NC021227 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The Cabinet met at 1130 today under President Amin al-Jumayyil in the presence of Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the ministers. Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi, Walid Junblatt, and Nabih Birri, who are in Damascus, did not attend.

Reports from Damascus say that Birri and Junblatt will retract their stance and agree to join the government after their meeting with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Faruq ash-Shar'.

At the end of the Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Rashid Karami made a statement in which he said he regarded the government as an emergency and salvation committee constituting a cooperative and complementary working group. He described the session's atmosphere as positive and cordial. Let us now hear Karami's statement in his own voice:

[Begin recording] The Cabinet convened today although not all members were present. We declared before and we would like to reaffirm our determination to undertake the mission entrusted to us. We understand the reasons that caused some colleagues not to attend the meeting. We are confident that they will not fail to shoulder the responsibility and assume this mission which the people are demanding to bring about salvation and an end to their suffering. We in fact consider the government an emergency and salvation committee. The Cabinet constitutes a cooperative and complementary working group. The Cabinet will tackle all questions in order to agree on their solutions. A minister not only is specialized in his ministry but also is a minister in all ministries, namely, he is responsible for the state's general policy. Limiting the cabinet to 10 members affirms that the government wants to be like a single cooperating working group with joint responsibility among its members about all matters to carry out this national public duty.

Therefore, we confirm that no member came voluntarily and no member came seeking rule and power. We regard our presence in these exceptional circumstances as an exceptional duty. Therefore, we did not abide by traditions or by any consideration stemming from firm principles, but we regard these circumstances as allowing us to be bound, in our work, only by the constitution, the law, and the higher interest of citizens.

Therefore, contacts are under way to reach an understanding with our colleagues, particularly Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi, so that they may share our feelings while they are more familiar with the citizens' sufferings and with what they desire than we are.

Salvation is our goal. For this reason we all must share the responsibility and cooperate to achieve this goal. We are determined and ultimately confident that we will be able to convince our colleagues to join us. Thank you.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Prime Minister, did you discuss the committee that will draft the policy statement? When is the next session?

[Karami] No. In fact we discussed in general the country's situation and the issues and atmosphere surrounding it. The session was positive and there was an overall atmosphere of understanding. Therefore, we did not make any decision pending the attendance of all ministers.

[Reporter] When is the next Cabinet meeting, Mr Prime Minister?

[Karami] The next Cabinet session will be fixed in light of the current contacts with our colleagues. [end recording]

Talks Continue on Birri, Junblatt Participation

Birri Proposes Ministry for South

JN021823 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1706 GMT 2 May 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Despite the continuous meetings between Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, and despite the obvious softening of stands, it seems that matters are thus far as they have been. Nabih Birri is still adhering to his stand. He says that Prime Minister Karami has violated the agreement reached under President al-Asad's auspices — an agreement which stipulates the formation of a 26-minister cabinet. He adds that Karami's 10-minister cabinet was announced without consultations and that there is some injustice regarding the representation of some communities.

However, I have learned from a well-informed source that the most important point on which the Amal Movement leader is insisting is the issue of the south. He believes that the south was not represented in this cabinet and that there is a need to introduce a ministry that deals with the affairs of the south, including its liberation and construction.

I have also learned that Walid Junblatt has no problems regarding his participation, but he is abstaining from declaring his final stand in solidarity with his main ally, Nabih Birri. I also learned that part of the current talks in Damascus dealt with the subject of expanding the Cabinet. However, it has been discovered that expansion has dangers and pitfalls. Therefore, it seems that the subject of expansion will no longer be discussed. What is possible is a compromise between the difficult expansion and Nabih Birri's insistence on not participating. This compromise can be the formation of a special ministry that handles the affairs of the south and that is entrusted to Nabih Birri.

It is noteworthy that the Syrian Government has considered the proposals presented by Birri and Junblatt as both constructive and positive. It also seems that the introduction of one or more new portfolios is quite possible. This is what Prime Minister Rashid Karami clearly indicated immediately after his announcement on the formation of the government last Monday. There is no doubt that when an environment ministry is formed, it will be easy to form a ministry for the affairs of the south.

The third meeting between Khaddam, Ash-Shar', Birri, and Junblatt, scheduled to be held 1 hour ago, was postponed. Birri and Junblatt are waiting for a telephone call from Khaddam in order to fix a new date. It has been reported that Khaddam is exerting extra effort; he is holding important contacts with President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami in an attempt to solve the problem of Nabih Birri's participation in the new cabinet. The government newspaper *TISHRIN* today stressed that Syria is ready to extend all possible aid and support in order to bring about the success of the new Cabinet's mission.

All are now waiting for the results of the contacts and meetings that will be held tonight. We hope to be able to furnish you with the latest developments in our last newscast, "Panorama."

South Focus of Talks

NC021937 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Following the security setback involving the various combat axes in the capital and the explosions that rocked certain residential areas, and following the cease-fire announcement at 2015, guarded calm reigns on the various axes except for the sniper fire that was directed at the 'Alamah and Hana' buildings at 2020.

In another development, the head of the national unity government Rashid Karami has affirmed that the government's program will focus on three basic points — security, reform, and the south.

Meanwhile, the government is still waiting for the outcome of the ongoing talks held in Damascus involving Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and Syrian Vice president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to overcome the obstacles confronting the government. The government convened today in the absence of Walid Junblatt, Nabih Birri, and Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi, who sent some questions enquiring about certain areas.

It should be recalled that the issue of the south and the creation of a ministry in charge of the south are still the main topic of the ongoing discussions in Beirut and Damascus.

Creation of Ministry 'Likely'

NC022148 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2100 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] Contacts continued between Beirut and Damascus concerning the (?status) of the government. The latest information reaching us indicates that it is likely a new ministry will be created to be in charge of the south.

Dr Muhammad Baydun, a member of the Amal Political Bureau, returned to Beirut yesterday [2 May] carrying a message from Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and lawyer Nabih Birri for Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Immediately upon his arrival in Beirut, Dr Baydun met with former Ministers Khalid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah who then were to meet with Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

Birri Proposes Larger Cabinet

NC030537 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Last night 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam telephoned President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami and briefed them on the results of the talks he held with Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt. During the telephone call, Khaddam conveyed the proposals set forth by Birri and Junblatt as conditions for agreeing to participate in the Cabinet. The proposals call for increasing the number of Cabinet members to 26 ministers.

Positive Results Expected

NC030820 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Consultations and contacts will resume today in Beirut and Damascus to settle the Cabinet situation. President Amin al-Jumayyil is due to deliberate on the subject today with Prime Minister Rashid Karami while Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt will have talks today with Syrian officials.

The current contacts in Damascus are expected to reach positive results in light of yesterday's statements by Birri and Junblatt who affirmed their eagerness to arrive at a settlement concerning the cabinet, which will be compatible with Lebanese national aspirations.

Karami met this morning with Syrian Social National Party leader In'am Ra'd, and with Ma'n Bashshur and Bisharah Mirhij.

Meetings Continue

JN031017 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] Assistant Amal Movement Leader Muhammad Baydun returned to Damascus from Beirut this morning carrying Karami's reply to Birri's proposals for the establishment of a cabinet portfolio that would tackle the affairs of occupied southern Lebanon and be given to Birri himself. Birri and Baydun met with Khaddam for 10 minutes. Birri, who refused to reveal the answer he received from Beriut, will meet with Khaddam again later. Walid Junblatt left Damascus last night for Beirut.

Ar-Rasi Rejects Interior Ministerial Portfolio

NC030540 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Responding to those who call for creating a ministry for the south, [former] President Camille Sham'un said not only southern Lebanon is afflicted but also most of the Lebanese regions. We are duty bound to help to liberate these areas.

Regarding his participation in the Cabinet, Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi said he will not accept the [interior] ministerial portfolio, because [former] President Franjiyah cannot be represented by a Greek Orthodox minister. At the same time, Ar-Rasi set out conditions regarding the Interior Ministry. He said: First and foremost integrated security areas must be established and undertaken by the security forces without partners in their specific areas. If the security forces were to represent the role of the Army, their role must not be inferior to the Army's. He further said that in their present shape the security forces have been exhausted with responsibilities that are entangled with those of other bodies. The security forces are worn out. The national service recruits must be annexed to the Internal Security Forces, he added.

'National Guards' Official Killed in South 3 May

NC031114 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] In southern Lebanon, national resistance operations are continuing against Israeli occupation forces and agents. Resistance men this morning opened fire on Ahmad az-Zayn, an official in charge of the so-called national guards which is sponsored by Israel, who was killed at Tuffahta in the An-Nabatiyah district.

Security Situation 'Tense' 2-3 May

Amal, Palestinian Activities

NC021304 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Regarding the western area [of Beirut], a security source stated that today the Amal Movement noticeably increased its barricades within the Farhat Quarter perimeter and in the area of the Sabra and Shatila camps. Reports say that Amal gunmen have exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen because the Palestinians refused to hand over to Amal persons from Sabra and Shatila who are wanted for alleged sabotage activities and thefts perpetrated in the [southern] suburb.

It is noteworthy that over the past few days, several Palestinian cells have been established. These cells are overseen by dissident officers, and funds have been earmarked for these cells. Furthermore, these cells are coordinating with the Communist Action Organization. Also, some members of these cells are operating under the guise of Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] membership cards.

Military movements by the Amal Movement have also been observed in Al-Bastah, particularly within the perimeter of the Al-Bastah [gendarmerie] station, as well as in Khandaq al-Ghamiq and Ra's an-Nab'.

For their part, the Junblattists have reinforced their positions in Wata al-Musaytibah, the Cola [factory area], Al-Barbir, and the Al-Barbir perimeter, as well as in the 'Ayda movie house and Abu Khudr restaurant areas.

Reports say that Sunnite students from the American University are being hassled and subjected to rigorous searches by Junblattist and Amal members dressed in civilian attire. These reports also state that differences have erupted between 6th Brigade Commander Lufti Jabir, and Colonel Abu Zaki concerning their roles.

On Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Junblattist gunmen have set up armed and mobile roadblocks and have abducted a number of 6th Brigade military personnel under the excuse that the Junblattists are being harrassed during their military movements. These military personnel were taken to the Jall al-Bahr barracks. However, after a 3-hour investigation, the military personnel were released, with the exception of three Sunnites.

Contacts took place between the mufti and the Sunnite commands to ensure the release of those abducted and to end the attacks perpetrated by the Junblattists against Sunnite community members.

Anwar al-Fatayri earlier asked his gunmen to ban participation in the demonstration that will proceed from Western Beirut in the direction of the museum on 6 May. Al-Fatayri also made threats against those who will participate in the demonstration. These threats were made during a speech that Al-Fatayri made to some PSP military officials. Al-Fatayri said that the battles are still at their beginning and have not ended. He also called on his gunmen to observe caution and to remain alert.

Tension in Beirut, Suburb

NC030543 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Tension prevails on various axes in Beirut and its suburb following last night's clashes which continued after midnight although their intensity abated at approximately 2200. Clashes with machine guns were renewed at 0500 this morning in the Sodeco area and stopped at approximately 0700.

The Security Arrangements Committee held intensive contacts and reached several cease-fire agreements, but it succeeded only at approximately 2200 when clashes abated during which various types of weapons were used.

Palestinians Intensify Actions in West Beirut

NC011628 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] A security report says that dissident Palestinian officials are intensifying their activities in West Beirut and the suburb. It has been learned that a man called Yunis was entrusted with

reestablishing cells in the Sabra and Shatila camps and that a man called Muhammad Sa'id was entrusted with setting up similar cells for Palestinian youths in the western sector's schools. Huge funds have been allocated for that purpose and weapons from secret arms caches were distributed [in the Palestinian] camps. The security report says that the aim of setting up the cells is to protect the Palestinians in view of recent clashes with the Amal Movement.

VOAL on Operations Against Israelis in South

NC030726 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 May 84

[Excerpt] The Zionist occupation forces are continuing their arbitrary and repressive practices in the south. Meanwhile, the Lebanese national resistance continues to invigorate its [resistance] policy.

The enemy forces raided areas in Sidon, Ma'rakah, (Al-Kawthariyah), Zighdraya, Jba', and (As-Sarsir). However, the combatants of the national resistance launched two new attacks against enemy patrols and positions in the two areas of An-Nabatiyah and Az-Zahrani.

In the first operation, an explosive charge was planted for a vehicle with an enemy patrol that was traveling on the Zawtar-Kafr Tibnit Road. The vehicle was destroyed and its occupants were killed or wounded. It has been impossible to gain an accurate count of the casualties because the enemy forces imposed a security cordon around the scene of the explosion and started search operations.

Another enemy patrol was attacked with automatic weapons and missiles near the township of Al-'Aqbiyah. Security information reports that the clash lasted approximately 10 minutes between the Lebanese national resistance men and the enemy patrol members, two of whom were hit.

South of Sidon, an explosive charge detonated while an enemy patrol was passing nearby. Arrivals from the south said the explosion occurred within the Sayniq Bridge perimeter while a military patrol was passing in the area. Afterward, the Israelis cut the road from Sidon to the south at the Maghdushah junction. Furthermore, the Israelis besieged the Al-Ghaziyah area and forced the owners of industrial and trade establishments to close their businesses.

In the Tyre area, the occupation forces found an explosive charge that had been planted on the shoulder of the public road near the township of Jwayya. Immediately afterward, the Israelis sealed the road and detonated the charge.

Franjiyah Meets Al-Jumayyil Envoy 1 May

NC011120 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah received in his palace in Zgharta at 1240, Joseph Juraysati, director general of the Republican Palace and envoy of President Amin al-Jumayyil. They held a meeting in the presence of Robert Franjiyah and Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi. Juraysati arrived in Zgharta aboard a Lebanese Army helicopter.

AFP: Political Rivals Waging Mass Media War

NC011139 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] Beirut, May 1 (AFP) — Fighting in the streets is paralleled by a mass media war between political rivals which has caused a schism in Lebanon's national Tele-Liban Television Network. The conflict mirrors the capital that has been cut in half. Meanwhile the opposition controls a state radio and the government is forced to use private radio stations to give its news. Tele-Liban viewers can select news produced by Christian journalists and shown twice daily in Eastern Beirut on Channel Five, or news produced by Moslem journalists in Western Beirut on Channel Seven.

This infighting all started on February 6 when five Moslem journalists working for the Arab service of Tele-Liban were critical of a TV item on destruction caused by the Army during fighting in Beirut's southern suburbs. They decided, with opposition support, to secede from Tele-Liban and broadcast their own Arab news bulletin over the second network, previously reserved only for French and English language news and programmes. Several days later a dozen Christian journalists retaliated by broadcasting from Eastern Beirut their own news on Channel Five in French and English.

Tele-Liban, not wishing to worsen matters, continues to pay the staff of the rebel Channel Seven news programme. Both rival news bulletins insist on keeping the same Tele-Liban logo and studio decor, for each claim to be the legitimate "Tele-Liban" Service.

Fu'ad Kharsa, news director of Channel Seven, points out: "We report everything, including the president and shelling in Eastern Beirut, but without favouring the government as they do on Channel Seven."

Meanwhile the Channel Seven management claims "we are the only legitimate television network" and that the "secessionists" have "simply taken advantage of a single reporting incident to create a television network for the opposition."

Both parties have nevertheless carefully avoided taking any action which might worsen matters and formalise the "schism", and cooperate in broadcasting other programmes. Information Minister Roger Shaykhani explains that: "It is just a personality clash — there is no threat to the unity of Lebanon's television.

Mr Kharsa has other ideas, as he looks on the whole matter as purely political and favours recognising the schism, preferably by legally forming a second national television network. The TV "war" is matched by a "radio war", with the national radio being picked up only in Beirut, while a dozen private radios operate in the rest of the country, controlled by various factions and militias.

Israeli Prisoners in Damascus; To Be Treated as POWs

JN022052 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2032 GMT 2 May 84

[Louis Faris live dispatch from Damascus; carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpts] In an exclusive statement to Antoine Abu Samrah, chief editor of Radio Monte Carlo, to be broadcast in the "It Happened Tomorrow" program on Friday evening, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' said the three Israeli prisoners of war are in Damascus and they will be treated as prisoners of war according to the international Geneva conventions.

The lengthy statement the Syrian foreign minister made to our radio's chief editor is comprehensive and deals with Syria's policy in Lebanon, Syria's Arab and international relations, and the possibilities of war between Syria and Israel. It will be broadcast Friday.

AL-BA'TH Comments

JN030727 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 3 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary today, *AL-BA'TH* points out the United States customarily the first to defend Israel. The United States has adopted a strategic decision to defend the Zionist concepts, which contradict human values.

AL-BA'TH says: Before the Israeli war council's meeting to discuss the problem of the terrorist cell which has been arrested, the White House issued a statement defending the three arrested terrorists. *AL-BA'TH* adds: It is no secret that the United States and Israel are coordinating their efforts in leading terrorist operations in the Arab region. On 3 April, President Reagan issued a terrorist plan in the form of Directive No 138, which considered spreading killing, ruin, and sabotage in Arab capitals to be the U.S. answer to any policy that might oppose the hostile U.S. strategy in the Arab homeland.

Israel rushed to support the U.S. terrorist plan. It may have been the first to receive a copy of U.S. Directive No 138 in order to work with it and coordinate with the U.S. intelligence organs in the region. The arrested Zionist terrorist cell is one of the groups which have been caught redhanded. No doubt, the group of secret organs, under the leadership of the CIA, has been able to send dozens of cells to Arab capitals. These cells are awaiting orders to implement their operations. However, we in this steadfast country do not doubt the ability of our soldiers to defend and guard the homeland against the Zionist-U.S. terror. Hence, the White House moves to defend the three terrorists.

The U.S. organs, which have penetrated the Arab homeland, have not consided the fact that Syria differs from those capitals whose rulers have leased them to the U.S. intelligence organs.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli media, which appeared confused while presenting the problem of the arrested terrorists, made contradictory statements showing they were actually entrusted with carrying out sabotage activities in areas where Syrian forces are present. This is proven by the confusion in the enemy media. The series of contradictory explanations of the problem show these media still in a state of shock. This is due not only to the arrest of the sabotage cell but also to the fall of the 17 May agreement.

Nevertheless, the Israeli rulers' threats to Lebanon and Syria will not frighten our people. We in Syria are well aware of these malicious gimmicks.

In conclusion, *AL-BA'TH* says: We in Syria are certain other attempts will take place, that Zionist terrorism is bent on taking revenge on the Lebanese people through carrying out explosions and destruction. We are certain the Zionist terrorists played a basic role in the Beirut explosions aimed against Lebanese security and unity. However, Syria, which has promised to defend the march of the Lebanese national reconciliation to realize peace and security for the Lebanese people, is alert to the plots of the Zionist terrorist organs. He who openly demolishes the houses of Arab citizens in Gaza, West Bank, and the Golan will not desist from destroying the security of Beirut or any Arab capital.

Syrian Sources Describe Arrest

JN031303 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 3 May 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Authorized Syrian sources have told us that Israel's propaganda about the arrest of the three Israelis in the area where the Syrian forces are present in northern Lebanon contains many lies and intentional prevarications. The three Israelis were on a mission of espionage and sabotage. They did not lose their way as Israel alleged. The road they followed is well known. The three Israelis crossed a roadblock belonging to the Lebanese forces. They then crossed another roadblock belonging to the Lebanese regular Army. They continued their journey to the north. This means that they knew their way perfectly and that they had a definite task along a well-known road. They were not lost in a desert as Israel alleges.

The Syrian sources added that Israel's claim the three persons were on a picnic is a false, ridiculous one. The sources wondered what kind of picnic this was. The Israelis carried with them military hardware and advanced wireless equipment, and other espionage tools such as maps.

As for Israel's claim they were diplomats, the Syrian sources consider this a joke. Israel alleges they are working in the Israeli Liaison Bureau in Ad-Dubbiyah. But whether they had been working in this bureau or not either in a permanent or temporary capacity, this bureau is not a diplomatic mission. The Lebanese Government has not legally recognized it. It is only a military bureau. Moreover, the three Israelis did not carry diplomatic or special passports and were not accredited to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry. The Ad-Dubbiyah bureau is illegal and illegitimate. Therefore, any claim they were diplomats is false,

fabricated, and baseless. Therefore, they cannot enjoy any kind of diplomatic immunity.

According to the Syrian soruces, what happened is that these three so-called diplomats, after crossing the Lebanese Army roadblock, had continued their journey into the area where the Syrian forces are present in the north, where they were approached by a mobile Syrian patrol unit. The so-called diplomats opened machine gun fire at the Syrian patrol which returned the fire and damaged the wheels of their car. The Israelis then decided it was no use for them to resist. They surrendered to the Syrian force which transferred them to Damascus where they confessed to having been on a sabotage and espionage mission. They are now being detained on this ground.

Israelis' Confession Reported

JN031320 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 May 84

[Report by Jubarah al-Barghuthi in "On the Events" program]

[Text]Gentlemen, Zionist organs are trying hard to hide the truth about the terrorist role they are playing in full coordination and consultation with the United States. In their defense of the terrorist cell whose members were detained by the Syrian forces in Lebanon, the Zionist organs claimed the cell members are Israeli diplomats. But Israel has purposely ignored the fact there are no diplomatic relations between it and Lebanon and that every Israeli on Lebanese territory is a member of the Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon, especially since the 17 May agreement, which Israeli had hoped to develop into a peace treaty similar to the one with the Egyptian regime, has fallen as a result of the Lebanese people's resolute opposition to all Zionist attempts to undermine Lebanon's independence and Arab affiliation.

News correspondents' dispatches from Beirut and southern Lebanon confirm the activity of the captured Zionist terrorist cell had coincided with the intensive military activity of the occupation forces in the south and assertions by Western analysts that Israel is preparing for a military operation against Syria. It has already agreed on this with the civilian and military leaders of the U.S. Administration.

Political observers in the area are unanimous that the three Israelis are part of a complete terrorist network which has been established by the so-called Israeli Liaison Bureau in Beirut. Since the bureau does not enjoy official status of any kind, all the members of this bureau are considered part of the Israeli forces occupying parts of Lebanon. Therefore, every member of the aforementioned bureau is considered an Israeli soldier subject to pursuit [mulahaqah] just like all the Zionist soldiers in southern Lebanon. This fact is confirmed by the information given by the three terrorists concerning their role in killing and destruction against Arab citizens and their properties in the occupied territories.

Furthermore, the Zionist administration which still refuses to disclose the nature of the mission assigned to the three elements, is fumbling in its defense of them. It denies the act of terrorism assigned to these elements, while they themselves have confessed what they planned to carry out.

The Zionist occupation authorities which are exercising terrorism and arrests against Lebanese citizens consider their measures legal on the pretext they are defending their soldiers occupying the south. Has Israel considered its occupation of southern Lebanon legal so that the arrest and detention of southern Lebanon legal so that the arrest and detention of Lebanese on their own territory is also legal? Do Israeli soldiers and terrorists have the right to move freely in Lebanon's towns and villages as if they own the land?

Political observers in the area believe the quick U.S. action in defense of the captured Zionist terrorists is proof that confirms the secret agreement between the United States and Israel to use networks of terrorists to operate against Syria and the Lebanese people as a prelude to the surprise and powerful military operation which the Americans and the Zionists agreed to direct against Syria. Press reports from Beirut, other Arab capitals, and also Western capitals confirm that Israel has completed its preparation for the war and that any move by the Israelis inside in Lebanon is considered part of the reconnaissance and terrorist operations by which Israel paves the way for its coming aggression.

Mashariqah Meets Ba'th Cadres in Idlib 2 May

JN021914 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Vice President Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah and Comrades Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, held a meeting with Ba'th cadres in the Idlib Province today in the presence of Comrade Hamdu Hajju, secretary of the Ba'th Party provincial branch, and the comrade members of the branch command.

During the meeting, they reviewed the current political situation in both the Arab and international arenas and the dimensions of the imperialist plans to spread U.S. influence over the Arab region and impose capitulatory solutions to liquidate the Arab cause. The comrade members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command also asserted that Syria's positions under Struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad in the face of all challenges stem from its true Arabism.

The Ba'th party officials also touched on the heroic and honorable role of our Armed Forces, which have confronted the Zionist invasion in Lebanon in defense of that fraternal country's Arabism and unity. They also outlined the importance of the great victories realized in Syria as a result of Struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad's wise and brave policy, which culminated in the abrogation of the agreement of submission that endangered Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation. The comrade members of the Regional Command also stressed the social development of Syria contributes to the strengthening of its economic base and its struggle at the pan-Arab level and gives new momentum to efforts aimed at building a society of progress and socialism.

At the end of the meeting, Comrade Mashariqah and the comrade members of the Regional Command answered all questions posed during the meeting.

Rif'at al-Asad Affirms Support for Cyprus Issue

NC021655 Nicosia Domestic Service in Greek 1630 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Syrian Vice President Rif'at al-Asad has assured that Syria will give every support to the Cyprus Government's efforts for a Cyprus solution. The Syrian vice president gave this assurance to Cypriot Ambassador to Damascus Likourgos during their meeting. At the same time, the Syrian vice president also stressed the friendly ties linking his country with Cyprus.

Syrian-Algerian Cooperation Committee Meets

JN021957 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 2 May (SANA) — The first meeting of the joint Syrian-Algerian committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation was held here today. Dr Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs, headed the Syrian side in the talks and Mostefa Benamar, minister of state entrusted with the budget and public funds, headed the Algerian side.

The two ministers stressed the need to strengthen the economic, trade, scientific, technical, cultural, and political cooperation between the two countries. Subcommittees were formed to pursue this purpose and to discuss all the topics of common concern.

Mostefa Benamar and his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon for several days in Syria.

Economic, Trade Relations Discussed With Malta

JN022021 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1935 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 2 May (SANA) — A meeting was held here today between 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, and Karmenu Vela, Maltese minister of industry, and his delegation. During the meeting, they reviewed economic and trade relations between the two countries and the future means to promote them, particularly the fields of increasing the exchange of trade and goods, transportation, and shipbuilding. The guest minister noted his country's need to promote teaching Arabic in its schools.

Captured Israelis Transferred to Damascus

Syria Confirms Move

JN030753 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' said last night that the three Israelis who were arrested in Lebanon the day before yesterday were moved to Damascus and that they would be treated according to the Geneva Convention. The correspondent in the French service of the Voice of Israel learned that the Lebanese soldiers' decision to hand over the three Israelis, who are officials of the Israeli Liaison Office near Beirut, to the Syrian forces in Lebanon seems to have been made at a high level within the Lebanese Army. Our correspondent adds that after the three Israelis gave themselves up to the Lebanese Army soldiers they were detained for 3 hours at the Lebanese Army Command in the Al-Batrun before being handed over to the Syrian forces.

During these developments, the U.S. Department of State spokesman said last night that Israel had asked the U.S. Administration to make efforts for the release of the three Israelis and that the United States is trying to find the means to help in this regard. Our correspondent in Washington said Israel asked the United States to explain to Syria that it considers this problem serious. He added that the United States continues to put pressure on Syria for the return of the three Israelis. However, sources in Washington told our correspondent last night that the United States' ability to influence Syria is not great.

Claimed To Be Terrorists

TA021721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] A senior source in the Defense establishment believes that Syria's announcement that the three Israelis are terrorists is an attempt by Damascus to free itself from the undertaking contained in the Geneva Convention, which deals with a fair treatment of captives. The source told our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that Israel will do everything it can to foil this plot.

To Be Treated as POW's

TA030536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' confirmed that the three captured Israelis were moved to Damascus. Minister Faruq ash-Shar' remarked that Syrian authorities will treat the three according to the Geneva Convention. Israel has asked the International Red Cross to request the Syrian authorities to allow representatives of the organization to visit the three kidnapped Israelis. Meanwhile, the United States continues to exert pressure on Syria to return the prisoners. Political sources in Jerusalem particularly praised the activity of the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. The sources told our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that Israel is not considering the possibility of closing down the representation in Lebanon, and has not been asked to do so.

The decision to turn the three over to Syria was probably reached in the high echelons of the Lebanese Army. The three were detained for 3 hours in the Lebanese Army headquarters in Al-Batrun, before they were handed over to the Syrians.

Release To Be Difficult

TA021548 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 2 May 84

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel — recorded]

[Text] It is believed in Jerusalem that Damascus' confirmation of the detention of the three Israelis will make diplomatic efforts to obtain their release more difficult. Until the Syrian announcement, Jerusalem emphasized that the three Israelis, members of the mission in Lebanon, were first detained by the Lebanese Army. The emphasis came so as not to involve Syria's name in the affair publicly. Political sources are now saying that they view the Syrians as responsible for the well-being and safety of the detainees. The sources add there is no doubt that the location of the three in the northern part of the Christian-controlled zone has nothing to do with the Syrians. Israel will take a grave view of any Syrian attempt to attribute false accusations to the detainees.

The political sources stress that the three — 'Eran Florentin, Shmu'el Roza and Nahum Nesher — work in the Israeli Liaison Office in Beirut and were present on Lebanese territory with the approval of the Lebanese authorities. They arrived at the Syrian roadblock in good faith, having made a mistake regarding the route of the journey they wanted to make.

It should be noted that over the last 24 hours, it is the Americans who have been busy with most of the efforts to obtain the Israelis' release. For the time being no results are known. Political sources announce that Israel will hold contacts with other countries as well, on the release of the three.

Jerusalem is still examining the circumstances of the incident which led to their detention about 24 hours ago. The feeling prevailing in the prime minister's office and at the Foreign Ministry is that this incident was definitely unwarranted. According to one of the versions, the three had been warned prior to their journey about the dangers and risks involved.

Lebanese Seen 'Shirking' Duty

TA030913 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Lebanon As a Satellite State"]

[Text] Israel is right in contending that the three employees of the Israel-Lebanon Liaison Office in Beirut were fulfilling their duty there — carrying out administrative and guard work — with the knowledge and acceptance of the Lebanese authorities and president. Therefore it is the latter's duty to demand that the Syrians hand the three Israelis back to the Lebanese Army.

Yet everything we have been hearing from Beirut leads us to believe that President al-Jumayyil is clearly shirking his responsibility for the fate of the three, and the official mouthpieces even

repeat the stupid argument that the three were engaged in "provocative acts." This provides still more proof to show that Lebanon has been turned into a Syrian satellite state. The miserable Lebanese war, which failed to grant Syria the crown of military glory, nonetheless gave it political achievements.

Insofar as the captives — new and more veteran alike — held by Damascus are concerned, just as in regard to matters of broader political significance, Israel would do well to seek any possible channel to hold a dialogue with Syria.

Shamir Comments on Transfer of Captives

No Progress Toward Release

TA021715 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The prime minister says that Syria has transferred the three Israelis to its territory. In a talk with our correspondnet Alan Ben-'Ami, Yitzhaq Shamir said that for the time being there is no progress in the efforts to obtain the release of the three. He warned Syria that Israel views it as responsible for the well-being of the three.

In a lecture before the Rotary Club in Tel Aviv the prime minister said Israel expects Syria to release the three Israelis and return them to Lebanese hands.

Expects Their Release

TA021727 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Speaking at a Rotary convention in Tel Aviv this evening, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the three Israelis who were captured by the Syrians on Lebanese soil were discharging guarding [shmira] and administrative duties in the Israeli liaison office in Beirut with the approval of the competent Lebanese authorities. Israel is exerting every possible effort to have the three released, the prime minister stated.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We have appealed through various countries to the Syrian authorities to release them but we have not yet obtained any results. They were arrested on Lebanese soil; they were far from Syrian territory and there is no doubt whatsoever that they had nothing to do with Syria or the Syrian presence in Lebanon. We will take a very serious view of any Syrian attempt to pin false accusations on them and we regard the Syrian Government as responsible for their well-being and safety. We expect the Syrian authorities to release them as soon as possible and to return them to the Lebanese on whose territory they were operating, with the latter's permission, in the framework of the Israeli liaison office.

[Meron Tzur] Referring to the plans of the Iranian and Iraqi Governments to set up nuclear reactors in their countries, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said one could not take seriously the committments undertaken by these countries on the issue of nonconventional warfare. Evidence has been produced against one of these countries about the use of warfare material such as gases, chemical means, and nuclear weapons. This evidence as well as recurring reports show that both these countries intend to build nuclear reactors which might given them the capability to develop nuclear arms. Many countries in the world have entered the nuclear era and have begun purchasing and building nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes and to supply the energy needs vital for their economy and progress.

[Shamir] Israel, being poor in natural and energy resources, is also interested in building power reactors in the country. However, there is no way to easily resolve the conflict between striving for peace in the world and maintaining an acceptable and normal world order and the extraordinary deeds of other regimes which strike at the foundations of human society and who violate pacts and norms of behavior without any fear of being punished for their actions. [end recording]

Replying to a question by the English program correspondent, Alan Ben-'Ami, the prime minister said the three Israelis have been taken to Syrian territory.

Warns of Possible Reaction

TA021822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Report by Alan Ben-'Ami on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Rotary convention in Tel Aviv on 2 May recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ben-'Ami] Asked by reporters what action Israel may take if the men are not released, the prime minister was noncommittal. But were his earlier words intended as a clear warning to Syria about possible Israeli action, he was asked.

[Shamir] I hope the Syrians will listen to this warning and do what we are asking.

[Ben-'Ami] Are you still hoping that the Lebanese Government can try and help in getting the release of the men?

[Shamir] I think the Lebanese have to help to bring a solution for this matter.

[Ben-'Ami] Why do you think the Lebanese should help? They are now in Syrian hands.

[Shamir] Well, it happened on Lebanese territory.

[Ben-'Ami] The prime minister added that for the meantime the United States is the only foreign party to which Israel has turned for help in securing the release of the three captured Israelis.

Arens Views Captives' Transfer as 'Improper'

TA021833 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Also reacting to the capture of the three Israelis today was Defense Minister Moshe Arens during a tour of factories in the Yizre'el Valley town of 'Afula. Reporter Vivien Royston was

with the defense minister during his tour. He was asked whether the three Israelis were not themselves to blame for their capture.

[Begin recording] [Arens] No, they're clearly not there on purpose. Evidently, there was a mistake. To the best of our knowledge, they were taken charge of by the Lebanese Armed Forces. It seems that they were convinced or forced to turn them over to the Syrians and that, I think, by any view, is totally improper.

[Royston] What negotiations have taken place so far?

[Arens] It's not really a matter of negotiations. It's a matter of representing our views very clearly and very strongly to the Lebanese Government, to other friendly governments in order to make sure that the Lebanese Government acts energetically on this matter and demands the return firstly of these men from Syria to Lebanon and therafter that they be returned from Lebanon to Israel.

[Royston] Has Israel not already set quite a precedent in exchanging many, many prisoners for a few Israeli prisoners of war?

[Arens] I don't think that there is any connection with the precedent that you're referring to and the present situation. We are talking about men who were taken into custody by the Lebanese Army and thereafter were turned over to the Syrian Army. That's an unprecedented thing and, as I said, I hope it is going to be corrected very shortly. [end recording]

Defense Minister Arens also told reporter Royston that the readiness of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front terror group to negotiate a prisoners' exchange for the release of Druze soldier Samir Asad should be kept totally separate from the question of the three liaison staff members.

Herzog Meets With West Bank Arabs

TA020955 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 May 84 p 2

[Report by Yosef Wachsman]

[Text] Israeli President Hayim Herzog is holding constant and continuous meetings with Arab leaders in Judaea and Samaria, and also with leaders of the Israeli Arab public.

It was the president who took the initiative on the meetings, and he reports on his talks to the prime minister and the ministers involved.

From the talks, it appears that there is considerable controversy among the Arab leaders; they fear one another and their leadership is weak.

Poll Shows Levi Attracts More Votes Than Shamir

TA030903 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 1

[PORI poll]

[Text] Placing David Levi at the head of the Likud list today would guarantee a voting rate of 29 percent for the Likud; putting Yitzhaq Shamir at the top of the list currently guarantees 25.7 percent of the vote, and placing Ari'el Sharon at the head of the list today would guarantee 23.1 percent of the eligible voters for the Likud. This comes from of a national public opinion poll conducted by the PORI institute at the request of *HA'ARETZ*. Thus David Levi emerges as the strongest force in the top Likud triumvirate when it comes to attracting votes, edging Yitzhaq Shamir and Ari'el Sharon.

An analysis of the data, according to socioeconomic parameters, indicates that the three attract votes from a more or less similar socioeconomic reservoir of voters. The support for all three is higher among laborers earning a medium or low income, and among the Asian and African population.

The outstanding difference is that while Shamir enjoys more or less the same degree of support among all age groups, David Levi and Ari'el Sharon enjoy greater backing among the young. Yitzhaq Shamir is supported equally by men and women, while David Levi and Ari'el Sharon are supported more by men than women.

The poll included a rerpresentative sample of 1,200 men and women who were privately interviewed in their homes all over the country.

Tehiya Approves Three Top Knesset Candidates

TA021924 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The Tehiya Movement Council has approved the three first slots of its Knesset candidate list as follows: Yuval Ne'eman, Refa'el Eytan and Ge'ula Kohen. This is reported by our correspondent Shalom Oren. The argument now underway is about the next four slots on the list.

Independent Arab List Formed for Elections

TA021038 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 May 84 p 2

[Muhammad Khalaylah report]

[Text] An independent Arab list is to compete in elections for the 11th Knesset. This was decided yesterday in Nazareth by the preparatory committee, whose members were elected 10 days ago at a rally held in Nazareth.

The committee approved the draft list for the election that is to be approved at the national congress which will be held next week in Nazareth, and will also elect the list's leader and its candidates.

The list's spokesman, Attorney Kamil az-Zahir, reported that the people on the list would be members of the Progressive Movement [Tenu'a Hamitqademet] in Nazareth, the Sons of the Desert [Bene 'Arava] faction, the movement for civil rights in the Negev, leading activists from the Sons of the Village and Ansar Movements in Galilee and the Triangle, and leaders of the local Arab councils and their members.

Az-Zahir also said that after the list was composed, it would try to create links with bodies and people from the Jewish left.

Ma'as, 'Atzma'ut Lists Unite for Elections

TA030938 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 2

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[Text] Ma'as [Action], the list made up of people from the development towns and slum neighborhoods, and Prof 'Ezra Zohar's list, 'Atzma'ut, have decided to appear on a united list for the upcoming election.

Shim'on Adar, one of the founders of the Ma'as list, has confirmed that negotiations are under way with Beersheba Mayor Eliyahu Navi, and if he joins Ma'as, he would head the Knesset list.

RAKAH Worried About Two New Arab Lists

TA030830 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 84 p 3

[Text] ITIM — The appearance of two new Arab non-Zionist lists that plan to run in the elections for the 11th Knesset has recently caused apprehension among the RAKAH activists in the Arab sector, fearing that these two lists will take away a substantial number of voters in that sector.

The two new lists are "The Arab-Jewish List" whose establishment was decided upon at the end of last week in Umm al-Fahm, and "The Progressive List" from Nazareth. These lists' platforms are somewhat similar to RAKAH in regard to the Palestinian issue and the Aran minority rights. The two new lists support the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, recognition of the PLO, and an end to the discrimination against the Arab sector.

Weizman Presents Yahad Party Platform

TA021158 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman, or better still the Yahad Movement, this morning launched its official campaign. This morning, 'Ezer Weizman held a news conference in Tel Aviv where he made public the basic principles of the Yahad Movement platform, which are: A struggle to achieve national unity; a stable peace; a united and integrated society; and a strong economy. Our correspondent Tzahi Noga brings additional details:

[Begin recording] [Noga] Israel's problems are those of society and the economy, 'Ezer Weizman says, and the security problem is only one of secondary importance. He claims that a correct economy and an integrated society would constitute a guarantee for the country's strength and power.

[Weizman] Look, today there are many solutions to the pure security problem, as it is called, and everyone offers advice on whether to enter Lebanon or not; to leave it or not; to bomb there or not; to go ahead with the Lavi or stop its production; to purchase or manufacture this or that aircraft, or tank — whereas we have really one of the largest deployments we have ever had, which incidentally is also among the strongest in the world. But what does that mean if the strength of the people 5 or 6 years hence is the same as today because of internal disputes, because of questions and arguments between observant Jews and non-religious Jews, or between Ashkenazi or Sephardic Jews? The same people who will be called upon to man the tanks — and I hope a lot less tanks will have to be manned in the future — will not have the necessary motivation and national feeling. Again, the strength of a nation is measured by its ability to stand on its own feet economically, and only lip service has been paid to this.

[Noga] Mr Weizman, who are the people on the leading team of the Yahad Movement?

[Weizman] Look, they are Moti Hod [former commander of the Air Force]; Paul Qedar [former consul-general in New York]; Shlomo 'Amar [of the Egged Bus Corporation executive], Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer [former coordinator of activities in the territories], yours truly, and Shlomo Buhbut who is the head of the Ma'alot local council — all these are the more famous names. There are also some other good men whose names are not famous. Have you heard about Avshalom Tzadoq from Qiryat Shemona, or Sha'ul David from Moshav Netu'a, or others who do not mean much to you? There is a team, we will have Knesset members, and we will present our list at the right time, when everyone else presents their lists — I have not noticed that anyone else has presented their list, although I know that from Agudat Yisra'el to the Herut Movement there has been a great argument over who is joining whom. With us, thank God, the arguments are minimal. It is true that we are only at the beginning of the road, and we have problems with our first ten names because we already have approximately 22 names on the first-ten list.

Further on Yahad Platform

TA021356 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1210 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv, 2 May (ITIM) — "I am more disappointed with the Likud than with the Alignment because I had greater expectations of the Likud since I belonged to it. We will sit together in the next government with whomever we can reach an agreement with on substance rather than on names.

Presently it is not clear who supports what issue, and nothing can be predicted, just as no one would have thought Begin would have returned all of the Sinai," 'Ezer Weizman said this afternoon at a news conference in Bet Sokolov in Tel Aviv.

The speaker presented the "Yahad" Movement platform and named some of the members who, following himself, will be

included on the Knesset list, noting that their order will be finalized once the list is submitted.

Detailing the main points of the platform, he said the emphasis will be on socioeconomic issues, which appear in the first part of the platform, preceding even the security subjects and foreign policy. He said it is necessary to implement the Zionist vision of establishing a country that attracts people to it and sits securely in the region, enjoying understanding and having arrangements [hesderim] with its neighbors. "The main target is not greater Israel, but the internal integrity of Israel," he said. He believes the autonomy process, in accordance with Camp David, should be pursued and opposition should be shown to annexation or a Palestinian state.

In order to solve the economic problems, he believes it is necessary to cut the defense budget, assuming that Syria does not intend to launch a war and taking into account the peace process with Egypt. However, it is doubtful whether it is necessary to carry out such a tremendous project like the sea-to-sea canal project. Even the "Lavi" aircraft project is far more expensive and involved than the proposal he had submitted at the time as defense minister. Furthermore, he doubts whether the changes to that proposal were approved by the government. "When I was defense minister, I too decreed budget cuts, contrary to the opinion of Mordekhay Gur, then chief of staff," he said. He added that it is also necessary to inspect the manpower and material deployment and check whether it is not possible to cut the reserve duty service.

Regarding an arrangement in Lebanon, he thinks one must become accustomed to the idea that Lebanon is a vital area for Syria. It is necessary to reach an understanding with Syria "under the table", just as things were done in the past regarding the "red lines." It is necessary to sever contacts with the Syrians on the eastern front and station UN units there, just as things are being done in the Golan Heights. On the Western front it is necessary to station Haddad's men up to the Al-Litani, and an international force between the Al-Litani and the Az-Zahrani, and thus in a controlled arrangement [hesder mevuqar] return to the northern border and stop dealing with Lebanon's domestic problems." [quotation marks as received]

In the economic sphere, it is necessary to set targets for a 5-year plan, and also reach a social convention through coordination between pay, prices, and government printing of money. "The government should reach such a convention even on the eve of the elections rather than conduct an election economy," he said. He believes it is necessary to cut the external debts and stop asking for foreign loans, limit the imports of vehicles, increase production and output, make changes in the taxation system, increase the number of women on the work force, and provide tax relief for working women.

Responding to other questions regarding the latest events, he said:

— On a Jewish underground: Israelis who have decided to take the law into their own hands are entertaining a sick thought, carrying out an anti-national act, and causing enormous damage. They must pay the price. At the same time, I do not think there is room for "collective punishment" by blowing up their homes.

— The terrorists who were killed while hijacking the bus: I am convinced there is no set, predetermined policy to kill captives. Woe to that political leadership that issues such an order. If something went amiss I do not know about it, and this is why an inquiry commission was set up.

— On Ari'el Sharon's rising power: There is collective responsibility in the government and Ari'el is not the only responsible figure for the Lebanese affair. There is here a national pastime of attacking Sharon, but he enjoys this and basks in it. If he is deprived of the right to participate in the election on charges that he is dangerous, this will not be a democracy. I have a long account to settle with him, but we both come from the same background. These were my relations with all the other "generals," one of whom is also the president.

The news conference was attended by movement members Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, Moti Hod, Paul Qedar and Avraham Tamir [former head of the national security unit affiliated with the Defense Ministry], and it was introduced by movement spokesman Tzvi Rimon.

Peres Views Peace Plans With Egypt, Jordan

TA021853 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1840 GMT 2 May 84

["Labor Party Spokesman's Announcement" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 2 May (ITIM) — In the framework of the Alignment's plan to revive the peace momentum with Egypt, a government led by the Alignment would agree to discuss an Egyptian request to hold autonomy talks on "Gaza first." This was stated today by the Alignment's candidate for the premiership in an address to the executive of the World Jewish Congress that met for the first time in Jerusalem. Referring to the chances for peace with Jordan, Shim'on Peres said: "The problem is not how to arrive at a permanent solution, but rather how to start negotiations."

Peres proposes to the Jordanians three possible starting points for opening negotiations: Talks without preconditions, talks based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and talks based on the Reagan initiative. Each of these points or all of them together are being proposed to the Jordanians as a possibility to start peace negotiations, the Labor Party chairman said.

Underground Members Admit to Attempts on Mayors

TA022007 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] There have been more disclosures regarding the Jewish underground. Some of the arrested people admitted to having taken part in the attack on the Arab mayors. The confessions were made verbally and the suspects have not yet signed written confessions.

The Security Forces are looking for additional people who participated in the planning and implementation of the attack on the mayors. This was learned by our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov.

Our correspondent reports that 10 underground members participated in the attack on the Arab mayors. They planned to attack other Arab personalities that same day but they ultimately carried out assassination attempts against the three mayors. Our correspondent adds that the largest group among those arrested is suspected in connection with the assassination attempt against the mayors.

Our correspondent points out that a reconstruction of the planting of the explosives in the buses will be carried out shortly. Two of those suspected in connection with the attack on the Islamic College in Hebron are also suspected in connection with the explosives planted in the Arab buses.

Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports that a cache that included 100 mines was uncovered today in Moshav Nov on the Golan Heights. Our correspondent on police affairs adds that the Security Forces uncovered several caches that included weapons and ammunition in Judaea and Samaria in the wake of the investigation.

Our correspondent notes that those suspects cooperating with the police have been allowed to see their lawyers. Our correspondent goes on to say that the appeal of 12 suspects who demanded to be allowed to see their lawyers was rejected this morning.

Closing of HADASHOT Seen as Serious Matter

TA021221 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 May 84 p 5

[Commentary by Yosi Melman: "The Crime And the Punishment"]

[Text] However big the defense minister's achievements may be, one of his deeds will not be a crowning glory. The closure of the newspaper *HADASHOT* is a serious matter in which he proved a lack of judgement. Herewith Minister Arens took his place in the history of journalism in Israel. Since the closure of the communist paper *QOL HA'AM* by the minister of the interior in 1953, no Hebrew newspaper has been closed (except by court order against *BUL* in December 1966) in Israeli territory. Arens is the first defense minister to demand this serious step. The matter is serious indeed, but not because of the offense committed by the newspaper *HADASHOT*, which was a minor one, on the contrary.

The paper's decision to publish the story on the setting up of an investigation committee headed by Major General (Reserves) Me'ir Zore'a to investigate the circumstances of the deaths of the terrorists during the attack on the bus, was irresponsible. The newspaper editors willfully and premediatedly violated the laws of the state of Israel, in that they did not submit the material to the censor for approval: This is the crime. But should they have to pay for it with the punishment the defense minister handed out? The answer is a definite no. It is no, not because of the fact that any punishment is useless, as the English philosopher Jeremy Bentham maintains, but because in a democratic society, which is, inter alia, based on a free press, there must be a reasonable ratio between the severity of the crime and the severity of the punishment.

Whoever takes an interest in Dian Goren's book "Secrecy, Security and A Free Press", knows that the history of the relationship between press and the Israeli Government is full of cencorship law violations. Reporters have evaded the instructions of the censor, not submitting for approval whatever they would have had to submit, and newspaper editors have been rebuked, and the papers fined, but the authorities have never decided to close a newspaper. True, this was an especially serious offense, but Moshe Arens's action is much worse because he should have reacted differently earlier.

First, the authorities could have reacted more strongly toward *HADASHOT* editor Yosi Klein, who let *THE NEW YORK TIMES* in on the whole matter. Klein was quoted in that newspaper, saying that the circumstances of the deaths of two of the terrorists were not clear. At that time the Defense Ministry did not react toward the editor of *HADASHOT* and acted with lenience toward *THE NEW YORK TIMES* which, by publishing these words, also violated the laws of the state.

I do not intend to defend *HADASHOT*, its editor, or its owner. On the contrary, they deserve to be denounced, not only because of the offense they committed, but also because of things that are far from journalistic morals and ethics, but are not for discussion at present. But, like the French philosopher Voltaire, even if I do not agree with a word they say, I will fight to my last drop of blood for their right to say it. This should also have been the reaction of the Israeli reporters.

The offense committed by the minister of defense does not only affect *HADASHOT*, but all reporters as a whole, and any person to whom a free press is important. But the strong hostility among the reporters, and contradictory commercial interests among newspaper owners prevent them from reacting properly and demonstrating a unified front. In this case, the reporters proved that there is no greater joy than the misfortune of a colleague.

Military Censorship Necessary for Security

TA021234 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 May 84 p 10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "The Censorship and the Security Services"]

[Text] Last week, in accordance with orders from the censor, I destroyed a section of my article about the Katyusha launchers that had been discovered in southern Lebanon, aimed at one of the frontline settlements in Upper Galilee.

The publication of the information about the Katyusha launchers was held up because the security authorities were interested in capturing the terrorists who aimed them at one of the Galilee settlements. Any early announcement about the find would have been a warning to terrorists not to approach that spot, and it was preferable to capture the terrorists and thus prevent further attacks than to have provided the security services with the

publicity they would have gained as a result of the Katyushas' discovery.

It was only after the discovery of the Katyushas was published by the Beirut paper *AN-NAHAR* that it was allowed to be published, without any mention of the name of the settlement at which the launches had been aimed.

It is hard to explain the intelligence and security considerations to inexperienced people. They immediately rush to fly the banner of freedom of the press against the "bureaucrats of the blue pencil." They do not know that the press in Israel has fought any time any government whatsoever that has tried to expand the reach of censorship beyond security issues (for example: the attempt to impose a censorship blackout on letters from heads of state to the Government of Israel).

As evidence of this, the most confidential secrets from Cabinet discussions, even at the time of the Peace for Galilee war, made their way to all the papers and all the telegraph agencies, proving that the "devil" of censorship in Israel is not so bad.

Of course we are hope for the moment when we will no longer need codes for times of emergency, but, for the time being, this is the law of the country and it is binding on us all, equally.

Anyone in Israel is entitled to complain about the wisdom of any of the country's laws, but he has no right to break it, even if it does not please him. There are many people who undoubtedly do not agree with the heavy tax laws, but society does not permit anyone not to pay what is required. There certainly are people for whom it is not convenient to do reserve service, but society does not agree to release the opponents of service in Judaea and Samaria or Lebanon. People have been sent to prison, despite the fact that they had a "different opinion" from that of Israel's security policy. The "different opinion" has not been given any legal status other than in the polls, in Knesset elections.

The same applies to people with "different opinions" who think the government is wrong in its security policy in Judaea and Samaria, and who are trying to take the law into their own hands to "impose order" in these territories.

It is true, there is a great difference between those who refuse to serve in Judaea and Samaria, and those who try to plant explosive material in Arab buses, but despite the yawning chasm between these two poles, a common denominator can be found. At both extremes, people are trying to undermine the authority of the sovereign rule of the Government of Israel, and, using the slogans "I understand better" and "I know better," they are making their own laws and jeopardizing the security of the country and its inhabitants.

We can classify those who deliberately violate the censorship codes together with those who try to break the country's laws, using the slogan "I know better."

Since we are aiming at legal equality for Jews and Arabs, anyone who rebels against the censor is thus setting a precedent for the Arab papers in Jerusalem, all of which are under Israeli sovereignty. Even Arab journalists could demand similar rights for themselves by virtue of "different opinions." They will, for example, be able to claim that the censor's ban on publishing instructions about how to prepare home-made bombs, as one of the papers in East Jerusalem asked to publish, is contrary to the freedom of the press, since it is no secret, books can be purchased on this topic. Anyone with eyes in his head knows what the security significance of such publicity could be.

Modern society is founded on professional specialization. The censor, then, is recognized in society as being an expert in intelligence affairs, who holds in his hands all the security threads. He is supposed to advise the press not to publicize something that could harm the security of society as a whole, including the safety of the Israeli soldiers being held captive by the terrorists.

Safeguarding internal security in Judaea and Samaria has been placed, inter alia, in the hands of the general security services. Their professional training, manifested in their many achievements, provides the security services with the right to decide when to publish, when to expose, and when to arrest suspects.

Sometimes the politicians and journalists who believe "they know better" can pressure the security services to publicize something by forcing an investigation, but the considerations of a superb professional organization such as the security service are not ones of publicity, but of practicality.

If the security services had given way to the temptation of publicity, they would not have achieved what they did last week. They could have made arrests a long time ago, but would have had to release the suspects for lack of evidence.

If they had been tempted by publicity, this would have damaged their own ability to plant agents, bug telephones, and keep surveillance over the people who were organizing. The publicity would have damaged the "intelligence goal" of digging deeper, and no one would have been caught "in the act."

The conclusion is: We must rely on professionals, they are the most reliable and they know better.

Lebanese Forces Against Closing Liaison Office

TA030955 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0945 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The Lebanese Forces will not allow the Israeli Liaison Office in Ad-Dibbiyah to be closed. This was stated by the representative of the Lebanese Forces in Jerusalem to our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck.

He reiterated that there is no change in the Lebanese Forces' position on this issue, and that they will protect the workers of the representation from possible attack.

This morning the Lebanese media reported that the Al-Jumayyil regime has demanded a few times that the Israeli liaison office in Beirut be closed.

Terrorist Killed While Planting Bomb in Tyre
TA021923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] A female terrorist was killed and a male terrorist was severely wounded south of Tyre today. The IDF spokesman says our forces sustained no casualties. In an announcement the IDF spokesman released this morning, the killing of two terrorists was mistakenly reported.

An IDF patrol noticed the two terrorists while they were planting a bomb on the shoulder of the road. The patrol soldiers opened fire and hit the terrorists.

Phalangist Representative Views Developments
TA022022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1740 GMT 2 May 84

[Interview with Pierre Yazbik, the representative of the Lebanese Forces in Jerusalem, by Arab affairs corresondent Aharon Barne'a, in Jerusalem on 2 May — recorded; Yazbik remarks in English]

[Text] [Barne'a] There was a first meeting of the new Lebanese Government today, under the chairmanship of the veteran, pro-Syrian statesman, Rashid Karami, without Nabih Birri and without Walid Junblatt, who are still thinking matters over in Damascus and are spending most of their time in the office of vice president 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. The most interesting turning point is that of the Christian community's position vis-a-vis this government. Its senior leaders, Pierre al-Jumayyil and Camille Sham'un, are participating in this government as ministers with portfolios of secondary importance, and even the Lebanese Forces, the military branch of the Phalangist Party, are not expressing opposition with the force of arms. In the afternoon we approached the representative of the Lebanese Forces in Jerusalem, Pierre Yazbik, and asked for his explanation for the change in policy after Fadi Afram, the Phalange commander, had announced that his forces would constitute a positive opposition to the Rashid Karami government.

[Yazbik] First of all, Fadi Afram did not talk about the positive opposition; he spoke about the constructive opposition. Constructive opposition means that our political choice is: We will not use our weapons to enforce them. We will not do what other parties in Lebanon do, meaning, bomb the presidential palace because we disagree or agree with this or that issue, or shoot at a school bus because we disagree or agree with this or that issue. This is what is meant by constructive opposition. This point is not new. I disagree here on the qualification of this word as new. Since before the abrogation of the 17th of May agreement we had said that...

[Barne'a, interrupting] Yazbik said that this policy is not news: Even before the abrogation of the 17 May agreement we said that our opposition would be constructive in that we hope the country's institutions would be able to base themselves on our opposition, and to refuse to make any concessions to the Syrians. Our position today, Yazbik said, has not changed. However, we persisted with our question: How will this government avoid making concessions to the Syrians when its leader is known as Damascus' lackey?

[Yazbik] I agree totally with you. This is why we refuse, totally and categorically to have any participation in this government, as Lebanese Forces, and to refuse any implementation of the decisions of this government if those decisions are Syrian-oriented, as you are saying, in our areas. We control the ground, we control the land, and we will see who will be able to implement or enforce such decisions. Let it be very, very clear.

[Barne'a] We asked still further: Rashid Karami has announced that the first move his government will adopt will be to stop all ties between Israel and Lebanon. Will you agree to this?

[Yazbik] You are aware that we are opening an office, a representation office in Israel. This representation office which will start functioning effectively and concretely at the beginning of the coming week will remain open. It has not been opened to be closed. It is not a step that we have taken to come back on it and nobody — and here I say very clearly and for the second time — nobody dictates what our political choices have to be, nobody dictates the political choices of the Christian community in Lebanon.

[Barne'a] Will you, for example, we asked, allow the reopening of the international airport of Beirut?

[Yazbik] We have a very clear-cut condition for the reopening of the airport which we control indirectly. In order for the airport to be reopened, the road to the airport must be guaranteed for all Lebanese. I mean by this: The day I, Pierre Yazbik, will be able to go to the airport without risking kidnapping or abduction, then yes, the airport will be open. Before that day, no, the airport will not be open.

[Barne'a] How will you, for instance, react to the idea to disarm all armed militia in Lebanon, both Christian and Muslim ones?

[Yazbik] The militias are today the only and sole guarantee of the security of the communities.

[Barne'a — in English] The idea is that there will be a central government, with a central army, that will take care of all the citizens of Lebanon.

[Yazbik] The central army idea is an idea that has failed, not only once but twice. We do not believe anymore in the mixed central army idea. We said it, we put it forth, we said it in our political project, that we propose, it was proposed by the commander, Fadi Afram, who spoke about the federation of cantons.

In this federation of cantons we speak of proper forces for each community, meaning by this, there is no longer a need, and surely there should no longer be, such an implementation, that a Christian army goes to a Druze area, or that a Druze army comes to a Christian area. This provokes clashes and this provokes insecurity. A Christian Army for Christian areas, a Druze Army for a Druze area...

[Barne'a, interrupting] Pierre Yazbik said that the suggestion is that there will be a Christian army for the Christian areas, a Druze army for the Druze areas and a Shi'ite army for the Shi'ite areas. Based on this, our conclusion as we presented it to Yazbik was that there is no way we can call the new government a national unity government.

[Yazbik] I called this government previously a government of national humiliation. Today I say one thing: that this government does not present any solution, that this government will merely — and it would be very good if it does that — merely bring a sort of a temporary truce, no more. The reason I say that ? Why only look at the Christian community's interests who are threated by the Syrian domination of this government. Look also at the so-called allies of Syria's interests. Any decision that this government will want to implement, knowing that such decisions will not be implemented in the Christian areas, will have to be implemented in areas that are not Christian. I mean by this areas that are very clearly controlled today by Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt. I ask you a question: How much do you think that Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt are ready to relinquish the acquisitions they have gained through the past year of war in Lebanon to a pro-Syrian government?

Funds for Expansion of Settlements Approved

TA022025 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The finance minister has given in to pressure regarding the allocation of funds for the expansion of settlements beyond the Green Line, and has made budgetary concessions on this matter, the like of which have not been made to other ministries. This came about following recurrent appeals by Mati Drobles, a Herut man and the chairman of the World Zionist Organization's settlement department, to the prime minister and the finance minister.

Our economic affairs correspondent Hayim Plattner adds that at stake is the construction of 120 new housing units in existing settlements and the establishment of a new settlement consisting of 25 housing units. This is expected to cost $2.5 million. Finance Ministry sources have said that the permission to make such a commitment does not deviate from the framework of the settlement budget which has been cut in compliance with the government's decision.

New Settlement Set Up in Jordan Valley Area

TA021928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] Tonight will be the first night of a new settlement. A new settlement, called Shadmot Mehola, has moved onto site in the northern Jordan Valley area. Our correspondent Mikha'el Miro has just returned from the settlement site:

[Miro — live] The nucleus that has moved onto its settlement site today is made up of 27 religious families, most of them coming from the neighboring settlement of Mehola because of an ideological split. The Shadmot Mehola people wanted to set up a communal settlement and this is indeed what they have done. Today they also brought their first torah scroll into the new settlement. The head of the Zionist Organization's Settlement Department, Matityahu Drobles, said with satisfaction: With the help of these settlers we will reach 10,000 residents in the Jordan valley area.

Bi'r Zayt University Reopens 3 May

TA030724 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0640 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Bi'r Zayt University is reopening today. The university was closed down for a month by order of the Military Government following disturbances during Land Day. Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports:

[Begin recording] During the last 3 months, studies at Bi'r Zayt university have been disturbed. In the beginning, the old campus of the university was closed for 90 days following demonstrations and stone throwing there, and disturbances which exceeded the bounds of the university. Studies continued on the new campus of the university, sometimes in tents which were set up especailly for this purpose. Two months later, during Land Day, demonstrations occurred on the new campus, and among other incidents stones were thrown at Security Forces. As a result of this the new campus was also closed for 1 month. Today the two decrees expire, and university authorities expect the resumption of normal studies. The end of the academic year was postponed by 1 week. The university authorities explain that it was not necessary to delay the end of the term for more than this. The month during which the university was closed was thespring holiday, in which there is a 2 week vacation. [end recording]

Egypt Cancels Ban on Coral Isles Sailing

TA021042 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 May 84 p 3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Hassan 'Isa, Egyptian consul in Elat, who returned from Cairo yesterday, said last night that Egyptian authorities would be cancelling the ban on anchoring at the Coral Islands as of this morning at 0800. The Egyptian consul said that after an examination of the affair of the yacht that had been secretly rescued from Egyptian territory, the identification of those responsible, and in view of Israel's reaction, it had been decided in Cairo to permit Israeli yachts to anchor at the Coral Islands.

The Egyptian consul said that at this stage there was an instruction not to permit those responsible for the removal of the yacht and Gadi Ben-Ze'ev, who owns the yacht, to sail along the Egyptian coast. He also said there was a specific promise by the Israeli authorities to put those responsible for violating Egyptian territorial waters on trial. 'Isa pointed out he admired the Israeli authorities for their immediate reaction. According to him, the instructions he had received at this stage were not to permit Gadi Ben-Ze'ev to sail along Egyptian shores. "Anyone who does not honor his country, and particularly anyone who does not honor a country that has made peace with Israel, is not entitled to benefits," the consul commented.

In reply to a question as to why he had left the consulate, the consul pointed out that he had gone on personal leave for about 2 weeks to see his family in Cairo, and this leave had been planned a week before the publication of the report in *HA'ARETZ*. At the same time, he commented that the affair had shocked the Egyptian authorities.

Egypt's Stand in UN Seen as Dissatisfying

TA030547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Egypt and the Soviet Union support a UN suggestion to convene an international conference on the Middle East problems. Letters to this effect were sent yesterday to the UN secretary general. Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs Kamal Hasan 'Ali recommends that the conference include the regular members of the Security Council, Israel, the Arab countries bordering it, and the PLO. Israeli sources in the UN expressed dissatisfaction with the letter. They said that Egypt does not even mention the Camp David accords and UN Resolution 242.

The Soviet letter was sent by the Soviet representtive Oleg Troyanovskiy. According to him, such a conference will provide a way out of the Camp David accords. He also called for PLO participation in the talks. The Western countries who are members of the Security Council are against convening the conference. The answers of Syria, Jordan, and the PLO on this issue are still awaited in the United Nations.

MK Ben-Elisar Assesses Relations With Egypt

TA021551 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew May 84 p 23

[Report on interview with MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman, by Shlomo Naqdimon; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] "The worsening of the position adopted toward Israel, as reflected in the remarks by Egyptian figures, stems from their wish to influence the Israeli elections," believes MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman. "The Egyptians want to see the Alignment in power."

Ben-Elisar, who in his frequent contacts with Egyptian figures in the past learned about their methods, bases this assessment upon a meticulous scanning of the remarks made by senior Egyptian figures. They "spew forth" assessments and opinions, Ben-Elisar says: "It is hard to arrive at an agreement with the current Is-raeli Government; Israel is to blame for the present situation... as long as Israel's political thinking does not budge, then..." and so on and so forth. The hint is obvious to all those who read these utterances —utterances that have considerable repercussions.

Question: What may an Alignment-led government give Egypt beyond implementing the autonomy agreement that was concluded in the Camp David accords?

Answer: Egypt wants to see the Alignment in power because it believes that the Alignment will agree to far-reaching concessions and compromises in Judaea and Samaria. Hinting at this Egyptian wish, President Mubarak recently gave an audience to MK Abba Eban, while he has not granted an audience to Moshe Sason, Israeli ambassador. Or take for example the way the Peace Now delegation was greeted in Cairo. Cairo lies in wait for any opportunity "to lower the profile" of the complex peace apparatus and, at the same time, has been hinting to Israeli citizens to change their government.

Ben-Elisar notes that King Husayn has also embraced the same method. Jordan would also like to see a change of power in Jerusalem to score political concessions which, it believes, are already in its pocket. When asked by a journalist about his opinion on MK Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that 65 percent of the territory of Judaea and Samaria could be handed over to Jordan, King Husayn replied: "That is very interesting." Ben-Elisar has no doubt whatsoever that Jordan will not give up on 35 percent of the territories and on Jerusalem for Israel's benefit, but he believes that the Jordanian king will have it easier with an Alignment-led government.

Question: Maybe Israel's political situation will really get better upon a change of power?

Answer: Israel's political situation at present is better than at any time before. To the best of my knowledge, a change of power will be politically detrimental for Israel. Egypt and Jordan know that they cannot get from the Likud what they hope to gain from the Alignment.

ALGERIA

Departing Swedish Minister Praises Relations

PM021155 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 20-21 Apr 84 p 3

[APS report: "Perpetuating the Good Relations Which Exist Between Our Two Countries"]

[Text] Algiers (APS) — "My visit to Algeria simply perpetuates the good relations which exist between Sweden and Algeria," Swedish Foreign Minister Lennart Bodstrom said in substance last Thursday shortly before leaving Algiers after a visit of several days.

The Swedish foreign minister was seen off at Houari Boumediene Airport by Mr Mohamed Rouighi, member of the Central Committee and minister of hydraulics, environment, and forests, the two countries' ambassadors, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Answering the questions asked by journalists from the national press, Mr Lennart Bodstrom stated Sweden and Algeria will strive to find a new way of dynamically increasing cooperation between the two countries. He also stated his visit enabled him to clearly observe Algeria's development prospects during its next 5-year plan — prospects to be examined during the next session of the Swedish-Algerian joint commission scheduled in Stockholm in the fall.

Turning to international questions, the Swedish foreign minister stated the two countries are working to eliminate tensions in the world.

"It is primarily in our respective capacities as neutral and nonaligned countries that we think we can jointly reduce tensions in the world and maintain our credibility with all the parties involved in the conflicts," Mr Bodstrom added.

Referring to the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, he expressed the view that whatever the mediation, the political will of the parties concerned is necessary. He also deplored that war, which, he said, has taken a heavy toll in human lives and equipment.

Referring to the situation in Central America, Mr Lennart Bodstrom stated that his government regards the mining of Nicaragua's ports as contrary to international law. "The economic isolation which some countries are trying to impose on Nicaragua is a harmful policy," the Swedish foreign minister also stressed.

Briefs

Yugoslav Commerce Talks — Algiers, 2/5/84 (APS) — The Algerian minister of trade, Mr Abdelaziz Khellef audienced here Mrs Dobrila Nikolajevic, deputy federal secretary for external trade, who was leading the Yugoslav delegation at the works of the sub-commission for commercial exchanges, met here from 26 to 30 April 1984. The talks focused on the preparation of the 13th session of the joint committee, mainly on the implementation of decisions jointly taken by the two co-presidents with a view to promote commercial exchanges on the basis of balance and mutual interests. Mrs Nikolajevic was accompanied by an important delegation of economic operators and had numerous contacts with Algerian officials. [Text][Algiers APS in English 1153 GMT 2 May 84 LD]

LIBYA

Protests Conveyed to World Bodies on U.S.'Threats'

LD031332 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, sent a memorandum today to the president of the UN Security Council; to Mrs Indira Gandhi, current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement organization; to Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League; and to Dr Peter Onu, acting secretary general of the OAU, informing them of the flagrant threats by the U.S. Government against the Arab Libyan people.

The memorandum referred to the statement by the official spokesman of the U.S. State Department mentioning a call to allies of the U.S. Government to impose an economic and political boycott against the Jamahiriyah, and saying that the U.S. Government intends to submit the matter to the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the NATO states to take collective measures, in addition to the American measures already implemented against the Jamahiriyah.

The memorandum makes it clear these statements reveal the extent of the gravity of the premeditated U.S. plan for aggression against the Jamahiriyah which follows a hostile campaign unstopped since Reagan took power in the United States, and that it is all the more grave because it is made during preparations for large-scale military maneuvers by the NATO alliance forces in the Mediterranean, close to the territorial waters of the Jamahiriyah. Perhaps, the memorandum says, the U.S. Government wants to use these maneuvers as cover for its aggression, with a prior political and propaganda campaign aimed at inciting and setting its allies against the Jamahiriyah, and making them a direct party to aggression against it. The memorandum stresses that the failure of all previous American attempts to compromise the positions of the Jamahiriyah, through attempts at political and economic blockade and by setting neighboring regimes against it, has prompted the U.S. Government to engage in a flagrant threat of aggression, true to its policy of using force to subjugate and intimidate peoples. But this time the United States does not want to be alone; it is trying to involve its allies in an adventure— specifically naming the Jamahiriyah as a target for it.

The memorandum says: The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah while informing you of the gravity of this high-handed American policy, wants to draw attention to the fact that it will have destructive effects on the issues of peace and security in the region and in the world if a common position is not taken toward such threats.

Arab Silence over British 'Barbaric' Acts Berated

LD021940 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 2 May 84

[From "The Revolution of the Producers" program]

[Text] As usual the Arabs have been keeping silent as though what has befallen the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London does not concern them either closely or remotely. The whole Arab arena was too cowardly to express its denunciation of and indignation at the barbaric British actions against a People's Bureau representingrelations among peoples. This is not the first time silence has engulfed this broad arena, leaving the voice of the Libyan Arab masses as the only one that rises in the arena on all occasions defying imperialism, colonialism and their agents and declaring opposition to any action taken against any country.

The Libyan Arab masses will not be disturbed by this silence in the Arab arena. We have been accustomed to standing in the arena without asking for help or aid from anyone. We trust our own capabilities, ourselves and our resources, which we use in declaring our stands of struggle which fear no person or force, however mighty. This is due to our deep-rooted belief in the justice of the causes we defend. What has befallen the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London is not a diplomatic crisis as the Western information media try to depict it. It is an imperialist attitude adopted by the old colonialist that still nurtures prehistoric dreams through which it reflects its dark rancor against the people who hurled it onto the historical dump of oblivion and who declared their sovereignty over their own land and soil with firmness, strength and faith reflecting the willpower of a nation that has never yielded or succumbed. We do not blame the Arabs for this deadly silence. But we declare with determination and insistence that the imperialist circles' actions against the Jamahiriyah will never succeed in checking the march of the revolution on every inch of the world where foreign troops stand. They will not prevent the outbreak of revolutions everywhere to scorch the enemies of the people and the blood-suckers with their fire.

As for Britain, which has lost all prestige and value in the world, it would not be difficult to bring it to account. The Libyan Arab masses who have vowed to humiliate Britain are capable of translating their words into actions. They can unleash the fires of the revolution in Ireland and other British towns and destroy these places, which will soon be placed on museum shelves. The Libyan Arab people know their way well and are capable of marching on the road of their heroic struggle on all fronts and in all arenas. This is the destiny that has been drawn by a people who have mustered their wealth, authority and arms.

Libyan-GDR Friendship Societies Cable Al-Qadhdhafi

LD021620 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The Libyan Arab-GDR and the GDR-Libyan Arab friendship societies have sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution. The text follows:

On the occasion of signing the joint program of action between the Libyan Arab-GDR and the GDR-Libyan Arab friendship societies, we are pleased to send you sincere greetings, reaffirming to you our definite resolve to work within the spirit of friendship.

We shall continue to struggle against the policies of U.S. imperialism and its deployment of the mankind-destroying and freedom-killing missiles. We strongly condemn the terroristic conspiracies being carried out by the United States and its agents in the world against the freedom- and progress-loving peoples. We condemn the police siege imposed by Britain, ordered by the leader of international terrorism, the United States, against the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in London. Through following up the popular authority applied in the Jamahiriyah and attending meetings of the people's conference, we would like to reaffirm to you that we will work for the realization of the prosperity and progress of our peoples to realize socialism and social justice, guided by your directives and what has been achieved through joint meetings between the Jamahiriyah and the GDR.

Briefs

Czech Minister Leaves — Tripoli, Rajab 29, April 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY// — The minister of labour and social affairs in the republic of Czechoslovakia and the delegation accompanying him this afternoon left Tripoli ending a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah which lasted several days. [Text][Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 29 Apr 84 LD]

MOROCCO

SFRY Minister Ends Visit to Morocco

PM021151 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 20 Apr 84 p 3

[MAP report: "Moroccan-Yugoslav Cooperation Will be Strengthened"]

[Text] Rabat — Yugoslav Federal Minister Abdulah Mutapcic left Rabat-Sale airport yesterday morning after a 3-day working visit to Morocco.

Before his departure Mr Mutapcic said his visit to Morocco enabled him to have "useful and constructive" talks with the Moroccan officials. "During these talks," he added, "we jointly analyzed the results hitherto recorded in the framework of cooperation between our two countries." "We also decided what lines to follow in the coming period regarding our bilateral cooperation," he said.

"I am convinced," he concluded, "that these talks will certainly contribute to the promotion of our cooperation and the strengthening of friendship between our two peoples."

Mr Abdulah Mutapcic was seen off by Mr Abdelouahed Radi, minister of state in charge of cooperation, Yugoslav Ambassador to Rabat Mrs Sonja Orescanin, and other prominent people.

The Yugoslav federal minister had arrived in Morocco last Monday at the head of a large delegation. During his visit he met

with several top Moroccan leaders, including the prime minister, the foreign minister, the minister of commerce, industry, and tourism, the minister of energy and mines, and the minister of equipment.

In connection with the work of the joint Moroccan-Yugoslav cooperation commission, which started in Rabat Tuesday, Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Tourism Azeddine Guessous had a meeting with Mr Abdulah Mutapcic, Yugoslav minister without portfolio.

The talks related to bilateral cooperation in the spheres of commerce and industry and methods of developing them.

The Yugoslav minister also met with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi, with whom he examined bilateral relations and means of further consolidating them.

It should be noted that Mr Mutapcic and the delegation accompanying him visited the Mohammad V mausoleum, where they paid their respects at the late king's tomb and laid a wreath.

Finally, Mr Abdulah Mutapcic, Yugoslav federal minister without portfolio, had a meeting on Tuesday with Energy and Mines Minister Moussa Saadi. The talks were devoted essentially to the different aspects of cooperation between the two countries and the means of further strengthening it.

The two ministers also expressed their desire to extend that cooperation to various spheres of interest to both countries.

In a statement to MAP, Mr Moussa Saadi stressed the excellent nature of Moroccan-Yugoslav relations, specifying that Morocco exports phosphates, antimony, and lead to Yugoslavia and imports electrical consumer goods from it. The discussions, he added, will be continued by experts to further develop this trade and promote bilateral cooperation, especially in the hydroelectric energy production sphere.

SUDAN

At-Tayyib Makes Press Statement on Emergency

JN021544 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA) — Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president and head of the state security organ, stressed the declaration of a state of emergency was well received by the citizens in all parts of the country. He asserted the citizens understood that the aims of the declaration were to solve their problems, meet their daily needs. and provide stability and security for them. The citizens also praised the emergency courts formed to deter those encroaching on security, stability and the masses' sustenance.

At-Tayyib stressed there was complete control over security in all parts of the country and a large reduction in the crime rate, especially crimes of armed robbery and assault which have been rife among the nomadic tribes. There have been no reports of any robbery or assault since the state of emergency was declared.

In his press statement today, the first vice president went on to say that after his meeting yesterday with the under secretaries of ministries and the directors of public corporations and establishments, he expected performance to improve in all state-run activities, and that the negative aspects and illnesses of public service would be cured.

At-Tayyib expressed hope that in the near future there will be solutions for the public's hardship in transport, services, and essential commodities.

Presidential Assistant Meets U.S. Ambassador

JN021553 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA) — Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi, assistant to the president of the republic for foreign policy, received this morning the U.S. ambassador in Khartoum. During the meeting, bilateral relations between Sudan and the United States were reviewed in addition to economic and political cooperation. The meeting also dealt with the political situation in the Middle East and Africa, and the foreign policies of the various sides toward them.

Meets Canadian Ambassador

JN021744 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA) — Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi, assistant to the president of the republic for foreign policy, this morning received the Canadian resident ambassador in Cairo. At-Turabi acquainted the ambassador with the developments in Sudanese economic and political affairs. They also reviewed Sudanese-Canadian fields of cooperation, especially in agriculture.

Accountants, Bank Employees Resume Work

JN021732 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1710 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 May (SUNA) — All the accountants and bank employees in the national capital have returned to work. They number 1700, and are distributed among 58 central units, ministeries, and establishments.

About 60 percent of the accountants and bank employees returned to their jobs yesterday and today after the specified date which called for their dismissal. A number of the dismissed employees submitted a petition to the finance and economic planning minister to look into their case after reviewing it with the concerned bodies. This is according to a statement by assistant chief of the accounts bureau in the Finance and Economic Planning Ministry.

New Ministers Sworn in at People's Palace 3 May

JN031451 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 3 May (SUNA) — The ministers and ministers of state appointed the day before yesterday [as received], took the

constitutional oath before President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri at the People's Palace this morning.

Attending the ceremony were Daf'allah al-Haj Yusuf, head of the judiciary; General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president; Joseph Lagu, vice president; and Dr Hasan 'Abdallah at-Turabi, the president's assistant for foreign policy.

Before taking the oath, 'Abd ar-Rahim Sa'id, head of the state protocol, confirmed the constitutionality of their appointments in accordance with Article 90 of the country's Constitution. The following subsequently took the oath before the president of the republic:

Saghirun az-Zayn Saghirun, Minister of irrigation.

Kamal Hasan Ahmad, minister of interior.

'Awad al-Jid Muhammad Ahmad, minister of the president's office.

Lieutenant General Dr 'Abd as-Salam Salih 'Isa, minister of health and social welfare.

Hashim 'Uthman, minister of foreign affairs.

Farah Hasan, minister of labor and social securities.

Ja'far Hasan Salih, minister of cooperation, comerce, and supply.

Hashim Makkawi Sayyid Ahmad, head of the administrative inspection organ.

Lieutenant General Yusuf Hasan al-Haj, minister of state at the defense ministry.

'Ali Amir Taha, minister of state at the ministry of transportation and communication.

'Umar Muhammad Yasin, minister of state of the president's office for political affairs.

Southern Rebel Envoy Give Paris News Conference

PM021045 Paris LE MONDE in French 27 Apr 84 p 7

["J.G." report: "Southern Rebels Rule Out Any Negotiation With Khartoum"]

[Text] Mr Joseph Oduho, in Paris at the head of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement [SPLM] delegation which is waging an armed struggle in southern Sudan against the Khartoum central government, gave a press conference on Wednesday, 25 April, in which he ruled out any possibility of negotiations between his organization and President Numayri's regime. "We have no guarantee," he said, "that a new agreement will not be violated like the Addis Ababa agreement which ended the first civil war between north and south. That is why we want to overcome the opposition between the Christian and animist south and the Muslim north to free the whole country from the tyranny of a minority clique. The aim of our fight is the creation of a united and socialist Sudan, which can only be achieved by a lengthy revolutionary armed struggle." Mr Oduho said that since February the SPLM, and its military wing the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army [SPLA] has controlled virtually the whole rebel movement in southern Sudan, including Anyanya I and Anyanya II which, he specified, "had degenerated as a result of a total lack of political and military leadership into small uncontrolled groups indulging in gangsterism."

With regard to his movement's ideology, he stated it was "vaguely socialist" and not "Marxist-Leninist," as the Khartoum leaders claim "in order to discredit us in the eyes of the population and the Western countries." To this end, he added, "the Khartoum authorities forged documents to prove that Colonel John Garang, who is SPLM chairman and SPLA commander in chief, is a well-known Communist, whereas he is known for his nationalist convictions and took a military course at West Point military academy in the United States."

Mr Oduho condemned the new Islamic legislation which, he said, disregards the diversity of "religious beliefs" in Sudan. He described official assertions that this legislation would not be applied to "non-Muslims" as "lies." "Four Christians from the south were among those who recently had their hands cut off in Khartoum" he stressed.

For his part Captain Alfred Akwoch, one of the SPLA's leaders, assessed the rebels' military activities since November 1983. He stated the southern units had to their credit several successful attacks on government garrisons in the provinces of Bahr al-Ghazal and Upper Nile, especially in Awa'il, Malawal, Ayod, Pok Tap, and Malakal. "Given the weakeness of our forces," he said, "our military operations are limited to raids against government garrisons. For the time being we are not practicing the policy of permanently occupying those positions. We merely occupy them temporarily to seize the arms and munitions we badly need."

Capt Akwoch admitted the rebellion had not yet reached Equatoria Province. But, he said, "that will not be long. We have already destroyed the railroad bridge north of Awa'il on the Lol River, thus severing the only railroad line linking Khartoum with Juba. We have also made the north-south road which follows the Jonglei Canal from Malakal to Bor impassable by laying mines."

TUNISIA

Essebsi Interviewed on Arab Affairs, U.S.

PM021351 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 23 Apr 84 p 23

[Interview with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi by At-Tayyib Farrad in Tunis — date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Let us turn to the case of the Western Sahara in particular. Some observers believe there has been some change in Tunisia's attitude after the complete mutual solidarity between Tunisia and Morocco. Some believe Tunisia has changed its attitude to some degree since approving the OAU resolutions.

Answer: That is not true. Tunisia's position has been almost neutral because the Western Sahara issue concerns the entire region and because it hinders progress in the Arab Maghreb. We used to abstain in the voting in international and African organizations. When, at the Nairobi summit conference, King Hassan II accepted the principle of referendum and self-determination for the Saharan people, the Nairobi resolutions came out unanimously in favor of that approach. Tunisia was part of that unanimity and it voted in favor of that trend. When

the 195th African summit conference in Addis Ababa issued an appeal urging the warring parties to hold direct dialogue after defining the parties concerned. Tunisia also responded to that African consensus. It did not take any unilateral position on this matter. Tunisia is still contributing to the efforts aimed at creating the right atmosphere for dialogue in the Arab Maghreb and at building up the Greater Arab Maghreb, which is one of the main ambitions of the people of this region. We are still committed to the OAU resolutions on the Western Sahara problem which call for a referendum.

Question: Your Excellency, the question being asked continuously in the Arab Maghreb is: What is the state of Tunisian-Libyan relations? Has the Tunisian Government taken a stand on the Omdurman incident in Sudan?

Answer: The Omdurman incident is something which concerns Sudan. Tunisia is of course an Arab country. We enjoy special relations with the Sudan and we appreciate all its causes. Tunisian-Libyan relations are also good and are based on dialogue and cooperation, and we have had scheduled meetings. This, however, does not mean there are no outstanding issues which require urgent solutions. One thing is certain: There is determination to tackle these issues through dialogue between the two countries. Meetings have been scheduled for the purpose of assessing this cooperation and discussing its positive and negative aspects with a view to rectifying it. We believe that consolidation of relations is in the interest of both countries.

Question: Minister, as far as we know, the Tunisian government, unlike other Arab governments, has not taken a stand on the question of the abrogation of the 17 May Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Is this deliberate?

Answer: I do not think every state has to take a stand on every event. Anyway, we evidently have not taken a stand in support of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. We believe this concerns the Lebanese people. Tunisia, as an independent and sovereign state which supports Lebanon, views this as an internal Lebanese issue. The Lebanese brothers decided to abrogate the agreement, so we welcome their decision but do not have to comment on the matter. Let me assure you we also did not support the agreement.

Question: On the Palestinian question, there is rapprochement between the PLO and Jordan, and several meetings have been held between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and His Majesty King Husayn. The Jordanian monarch has made an important statement regarding the Reagan peace plan. His position has been supported by the Arab League secretary general. Is there a Tunisian policy regarding this plan?

Answer: We wish to emphasize that the Palestinian cause is important to all the Arabs but it basically concerns the Palestinian people whose cause it is.

The Arab states have all agreed the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. While committed to the Palestinian cause and all other great Arab causes, Tunisia believes in noninterference in the affairs of others, especially the PLO which must itself determine its own policies and attitudes. Committed as we are to the cause, we support and back the PLO but it is responsible for its own political line and plan to settle the question. So if the PLO says negotiations with Jordan are in the interest of the cause, nobody can prevent it from holding such negotiations. Jordan is an Arab state as committed to the Palestinian cause as the rest of the Arab states. We do hope for good relations between the PLO and all the Arab states. If there are some clouds between it and certain Arab states, we hope they will disappear. Tunisia is in principle always willing to contribute to that end. We bless the current dialogue between the PLO and Jordan and whatever the two sides agree upon provided it is accepted by both sides and by their responsible institutions.

King Husayn spoke about U.S. credibility. He said that by committing itself to Israel, the United States has undermined its own credibility as a mediator and has in fact become a party to the conflict not a mediator. As far as we can tell from his statements, King Husayn is questioning the U.S. role in facilitating settlement of the conflict and problems between Israel and the Arab states and Israel and Palestine because of the U.S. alignment with Israel.

Question: Does this mean rejection of any U.S. role in the settlement of the Middle East conflict?

Answer: We believe that we should not reject any role. When the Reagan plan was announced, the Arabs neither supported nor rejected it. They took a cautious stand in Fes. That is why a delegation went to the United States for clarifications from U.S. officials on the positive and negative aspects of the plan.

What is now being talked about is U.S. credibility and the question of its ability to boost the peace plan, in view of the part it played in Lebanon and the ensuing results which gave the impression in the Arab states that the United States has lost some of its credibility as a state capable of playing a special role. This is particularly the case against the background of the U.S. election campaign, which does not encourage the U.S. Administration to take during initiatives in this connection. One thing remains in one's mind and cannot be denied by any responsible official: There is a role for the United States to play but it should be more positive and balanced and should take into consideration the Arab factor, which is no less important than the Israeli factor.

Delay Asked for Foreign Ministers Meeting

JN021023 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 2 May, (INA) — The INA correspondent has learned that Tunisia officially asked the Arab League to postpone until 25 May the Arab Foreign Ministers Emergency Conference, scheduled to convene here on 15 May.

Arab diplomatic sources told the INA correspondent today Tunisia's request is motivated by the fact that several meetings and seminars will be held in the same period and to enable Tunisia to welcome the delegations attending the Arab Foreign Ministers Emergency Conference, as well as to harmonize

between the date of the Arab Foreign Ministers conference and the meeting of the permanent ministrial committee for Arab-African cooperation to convene in Tripoli, Libya on 27 May. It has also been learned the Arab League would communicate Tunisia's memorandum on this subject to the Arab League members.

The Arab Foreign Ministers Emergency Conference called for by 81st session of the Arab League Council last March will discuss the possibility of convening the 13th Arab summit and the date of its convocation.

WESTERN SAHARA

Ten Moroccan Prisoners Released 2 May

LD022341 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] It has been reported in Houza, in the liberated territories that the Saharan authorities yesterday [2 May] released 10 Moroccan prisoners to a Red Cross team which will escort them into Morocco.

Omar Hadhrami, member of the Political Bureau and the official in charge of foreign relations in the Saharan national assembly, stated these Moroccan prisoners were reserve officers and men, are in good health and have been released for humanitarian reasons.

CAMEROON

Paris: 35 Coup Plotters Executed in Yaounde

LD031415 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] We have just received a dispatch: It seems 35 people have been sentenced to death and executed in Cameroon. These 35 people were accused of participation in the foiled coup of 6 April in Yaounde. They were sentenced to death by the military courts and executed Tuesday morning.

CHAD

Gabonese Minister Brings Message From Bongo

AB022158 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] A Gabonese envoy, the Gabonese minister of commerce accompanied by an adviser of President Omar Bongo, arrived in the early evening in Ndjamena with a message from the Gabonese head of state to President Hissein Habre. The Gabonese delegation is meeting right now with the head of state. It will leave Ndjamena later on for other African capitals.

Ndjamena Resents Equating Libyan, French Presence

AB022200 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 2 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] France and Libya have all spoken about the withdrawal of their troops from Chad. AFP has just announced and reported that the secretary general of the French Ministry of External Relations, Francis Goodmann, visited Tripoli last week for talks with the Libyan leaders.

In short, France is a sovereign country so its external policy is its own business but what hurts is that the presence of French troops in Chad is put on the same footing as the invasion of Chad by the Tripoli terrorists. There is no comparison. The French Government heeded the call of the Chadian Government, whose territory was facing the threat of a Libyan invasion, by sending soldiers to our country. Libya is in Chad with the sole aim of annexing Chad and therefore there is absolutely nothing in common between France and Chad.

FAN Command Council Member Appointed Envoy to PRC

AB022155 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Issa Abbas Ali is Chad's new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Beijing. Issa Abbas Ali was appointed by presidential decree on 24 April 1984 to represent Chad in the People's Republic of China. Before his appointment, Abbas Ali was Chad's ambassador to Belgium and the EEC. He is also a member of the FAN Command Council.

CONGO

PCT Central Committee Session Ends With Communique

AB022220 Dakar PANA in French 1730 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 2 May (ACI/PANA) — Congo's gross domestic product [GDP] for 1983 was 804 billion CFA francs, meaning a relative 13 percent growth in terms of constant francs as against 12 percent in 1982, said a final communique issued at the end of the 15th session of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party (PCT), which was held in Brazzaville from 20 to 30 April.

The final communique noted that the state's effort in the building and public works sector substantially increased this sector's contribution to the GDP and added that the overall investment effort of all the country's economic agents slightly regressed as compared with 1982.

Concerning the balance of payments the communique pointed out that it was marked on the whole by a certain amount of stability as compared with 1982. There was a surplus in the trade balance whereas the money supply fell slightly, in view of the relative economic recession in 1983.

The real investment effort made by the state and state firms in the year 1984, the document stated, reached 163 billion CFA francs on 29 February 1984.

The PCT Central Committee, the communique continued, asked the government to reduce the 1984 state budget which was initially fixed at 172.9 billion CFA francs in order to maintain the macro-economic balance.

The new readjusted budget should give priority to the opening up of the interior, the revival of state enterprises and essential projects in the areas of energy, water, technical education and health.

The Central Committee decided to embark on the creation of the first 50 central villages in its experiment of creating more than 100. The creation of central villages, as planned for in the 5-year development plan from 1982 to 1986, is aimed at stopping the accelerated economic and demographic desertion of the rural areas by setting up social and cultural establishments there.

The final communique added that the Central Committee approved of Congo's membership in the Economic Community of Central African States, whose treaty of creation will be submitted to the National Assembly for ratification.

As a prelude to the Third Ordinary PCT Congress scheduled for 27 to 30 July 1984, the Central Committee, the final communique continued, has decided that regional congresses preceded by general assemblies of party members will take place between 25 May and 10 June 1984.

GHANA

World Bank Pledges $169 Million Investment

AB300730 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 30 Apr 84

[Text] The representative of the World Bank in Accra, Dr Shelvik, has announced that investments totaling $169 million have been pledged to Ghana through the bank to help rehabilitate her export sector. Speaking to the *AFRICAN ECONOMIC MAGAZINE* in Washington, he said the aid disbursement for the [word indistict] recovery plan has not begun yet, but government policy initiatives are already under way. Dr Shelvik was in the American capital to make the first of a series of progress reports requested by participants at last November's donors' conference in Paris. He said the sector showing most improvement in recent months is the timber industry. According to the World Bank representative, timber and veneer exports are expected to continue to grow in the coming year.

On the mining industry, Dr Shelvik said developments at the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation at Obuasi are more promising, and he disclosed that negotiations are almost complete for the International Finance Corporation's consideration of $45 million to the expansion program. This is made up of a loan of $22.5 million from the corporation and another $22.5 million from a commercial syndicate.

Dr Shelvik noted that the government is showing encouraging results on its new investment code. He said, however, an internal draft prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning is not comprehensive and balanced. The World Bank is therefore advising on a second version to be ready for the next consultative group meeting. Dr Shelvik said the government's positive attitude to foreign investments has already had an impact. He added that commercial banks in the United States are particularly keen to do business in Ghana. In fact, several of them have sent missions to the country in recent weeks. In a feature on Ghana, the *AFRICAN ECONOMIC MAGAZINE* said the World Bank-sponsored palm plantation in the eastern region will benefit from a second International Development Association credit to be submitted for board approval by next July.

Information Materials Requested From Soviet Union

AB022050 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee, has expressed concern about negative prejudices which lack of information has imposed on the majority of Ghanaians, and in order to break these prejudices she appealed to the Soviet Union to make available to Ghana regularly reading and information materials, especially films which cut across all social classes. She was speaking in Accra today during discussions with the Soviet ambassador, Mr Vyacheslav Semenov. They discussed the information aspect of the protocol agreement signed recently between Ghana and the Soviet Union. According to the secretary, it is only when the people's level of awareness is raised through information that they will be able to analyze any information they receive.

Mr Semenov on his part, noted that the Soviet Union, like Ghana has similar problems of lack of information amongst her people as a result of illiteracy [as heard]. For that matter, there is need for the peoples of the two countries to get closer together to know and understand each other better. They hoped the protocol agreement will work to the mutual benefit of both countries. Under the agreement, there will be regular exchange of mass media personnel and materials between the two countries.

Daily Comments on Rawlings Advice to Guineans

AB022031 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 May 84

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] The *GHANAIAN TIMES* takes up the advice by the Provisional National Revolutionary Council [PNDC] chairman that African leaders should not reject outright all policies initiated by previous leaders. He told the delegation from Guinea that a distinction should be drawn between the good and bad ones inherited from past leaders so that the good ones can be retained. The paper observes that one major factor of strength of the PNDC is its positive stand on the unity of progressive forces old and new. The revolution takes forward movement upon the drawing out of what is good of the land and the people irrespective of past affiliations. The *TIMES* says a commitment to the national interest and the interest of the people is the fundamental principle of the process and this has confounded the enemies of the revolution and their desire and attempts to project it to the world a process of hate. They try to give the false impression that the revolution is against what the paper describes as everything old. The *TIMES* says the revolution is winning increasing credibility. This is because, for once, policies are adopted on their own merits and on the basis of what supports the true interest of the people. The paper reminds African leaders, old and new, that they have no chance of success unless they are prepared to recognize that no force is more powerful than the aspirations of the people.

GUINEA

EL MOUDJAHID Interviews Prime Minister Traore

PM020901 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 22 Apr 84 p 16

[Interview with Prime Minister Diara Traore by Rachid Lourdjane in Conakry date not given]

[Excerpts] *EL MOUDJAHID*: Since 3 April Guinea has occupied a prominent place in international news. Some people think that the political leanings of the Military Committee for National Recovery [CMRN] tend to be pro-Western. Others think that you are guided by nationalist considerations. The least decisive observers think that you are seeking a path whose principles and details still have to be defined. What is the real situation, prime minister?

Colonel Diara Traore: The Republic of Guinea is now experiencing changes in all spheres. But in any case the government of the second republic and the CMRN have no ideological leanings toward any country either in the West or in the East. We repeat that, in the Guinean people's higher interests, we are with all countries in the world which sincerely want to cooperate with our country, which want to help us in the recovery which we have taken as our objective, and whose only concern is the development which we are tackling. We are not accountable to anyone and we do not want to be in any country's tow. We want our dignity to be respected and we want all countries to understand this.

This is what I can say on this question. We do not want to place ourselves in any sphere of influence, but we want cooperation with those who will respect our dignity and our sovereignty.

EL MOUDJAHID: You described the legacy left to you by the former regime as "a disaster." What solution do you propose for this diagnosis?

Col Diara Traore: We said that very honestly. We are making no secret of the fact. The former regime's legacy is a burden, not to say an economic disaster.

We do not even dare talk about rebuilding Guinea, but about building it from nothing. We have everything to do, particularly at economic levels and at the level of exploiting our resources. Guinea has rightly been described as a geological "scandal" because of the wealth it contains and the paradox of underdevelopment. Guinea is rich in raw materials and natural resources. Our underdevelopment and this geological disaster stem from the fact that the former regime was not in the least concerned about exploiting resources other than at a purely theoretical level. That is why the CMRN's fundamental concern is to call on all industrialized countries, be they in the East or in the West, to help in the real exploitation of our surface and underground resources.

We are aware of the country's underlying potential and we ask all countries in the world to join our efforts to exploit our resources.

EL MOUDJAHID: Algeria and Guinea have a longstanding and old friendship based on solidarity in struggle. The Algerians recall with some emotion the Guinean people's courageous attitude in the stances it adopted in support of struggling Algeria. Misunderstandings arose under the former regime and undermined that friendship at times. Prime minister, how do you view the development of relations between our two countries?

Col Diara Traore: Our friends are those who understand us, those who sincerely want to cooperate with us, and who want to help us develop our country. As you so rightly recall, Guinea and Algeria have woven strong ties. Many things have happened between us, and we remember Guinea's support for the sister republic of Algeria. A Guinean proverb says that "the teeth and tongue inhabit the same mouth, but the teeth sometimes make a mistake and bite the tongue." In any friendship there are sometimes misunderstandings, and we regard the cooling of Algerian-Guinean friendship as a temporary misunderstanding between the former regime and the Algerian Government and people. Nonetheless the Guinean CMRN and Government are very ready to see harmony restored to those relations, regarding the Algerian people, their party the FLN, and their government as friends.

EL MOUDJAHID: As the country hosting the 20th OAU summit, have you defined your position on the major problems which are tearing African apart?

Col Diara Traore: The burning problems to which you refer are, of course, Chad and the West Sahara. The most delicate of the two is probably the Sahara problem, which, at times, and especially during the 19th summit in Tripoli, almost brought about the collapse of the continental organization. We do not have any particular position on the West Sahara question. Our position is the same as the one adopted by the 19th OAU summit in Addis Ababa, making provision for a cease-fire followed by a referendum. Guinea supported that resolution, and we have no position to take on the West Sahara other than the implementation of the decisions taken by all the African states in Addis Ababa. As regards the holding of the 20th summit, Guinea is still asking for it to be held in Conakry. I repeat that we do not have an individual position on these two problems, neither on Chad nor on the West Sahara, but we will conform strictly to all the decisions the OAU might take at any session.

Traore's Visit to Liberia, Ghana, Gabon Viewed

AB021615 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] It was with full honors that Guinean Prime Minister Diara Traore passed through the first three stages of his second tour which will take him to 10 African countries. While delivering Guinean head of state Lansana Conte's personal messages to the Liberian, Ghanaian, and Gabonese presidents on Monday, 30 April, Diara Traore made a frank and direct report about the present situation in Guinea. The arguments advanced by Diara Traore completely enlightened them. That was why in Liberia, Ghana, and Gabon the prime minister heard voices of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation. The heads of state of these countries said they have always been by the side of Guinea and its people and that they are still by their side.

In Liberia, the first stage of this tour, President Samuel Kanyon Doe — who considers Guinea an extension of Liberia — recalled that his country recognized the government of the Second Guinean Republic on 3 April because, as far as he is concerned, the action of 3 April was indispensable and had the support of the Guinean people [words indistinct]. The discussions between the Liberian head of state and the Guinean prime minister emphasized the importance of the cooperation between the two countries. This cooperation concerns particularly the development of air and road transportation between both countries, the exploitation of the Mount Nimba iron ore deposits, and agricultural development within the Mano River Union.

In Ghana, head of state Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings is also in favor of cooperation between Guinea and Ghana.

In Gabon, El-Hadj Omar Bongo did everything to mark the two rounds of discussions he had with the prime minister and his delegation with a great spirit of hospitality. Gabon is fully prepared to cooperate with Guinea. President Bongo confirmed this to the press at the end of talks. As far as Guinea is concerned, Prime Minister Diara Traore hoped for the development of cooperation with Gabon in mining and agricultural fields. Colonel Diara Traore will today leave Franceville, President Bongo's home town, for Lagos.

IVORY COAST

State Minister To Renegotiate Foreign Debts

AB021631 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The minister of state, Seri Gnoleba, today starts his series of negotiations with our Western creditors in order to obtain from them a possible rescheduling of our external debts. Mr Gnoleba is today in Paris where during the whole week he will meet with the members of the Club de Paris. He will then go to the United States on 7 May, especially to Washington and New York, where, in addition to the rescheduling of our debts, he will try to convince powerful American financiers to invest in Ivory Coast.

LIBERIA

Finance Minister Meets With U.S. Officials

AB030915 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The American Government has expressed willingness to continue its assistance to Liberia's overall economic development. This view was expressed by James Bishop, deputy secretary of state for African affairs, when he received Finance Minister G. Alvin Jones at the State Department today in Washington, D.C. Minister Jones, who is winding up his 5-day official tour of the U.S. capital, was scheduled to meet with the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Chester Crocker. He was warmly received at the U.S. State Department by Edward Perkins, director of West African affairs, who explained that Crocker was out of the capital on official business and regretted that he could not personally meet Mr Jones.

According to the Liberian Information Bureau in Washington, Finance Minister Jones' 90-minute discussion with State Department officials was held in a cordial atmosphere. The American officials inquired about the progress of the government's socio-economic development programs and Minister Jones reportedly informed them that the people of Liberia are responding to the head of state's call to tighten their belts and work hard for the development of their country. He also briefed them on the progress of the recent move to collect outstanding revenues, as well as the return of confiscated properties to their owners. He told them about the $18 million agreement signed this week with the World Bank and informed them that an IMF team is to travel to Liberia before the end of May to review conditions for further assistance in the next fiscal year. Minister Jones told the American officials that the Liberian Government will be interested in an additional military assistance program for building barracks, after the special agreement expires in 1985, and explained that any civilian government should want to improve the living condition of its military personnel.

NIGER

Briefs

Kuwait, DPRK Envoys— The head of state, General Seyni Kountche, this morning received the letters of credence of two new ambassadors to Niger. They are (Jasim Muhammad Burasli) from the State of Kuwait, and Kim Kye-sik from the DPRK. The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Ide Oumarou, was present at the presentation ceremony. [Text] [Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 27 Apr 84 AB]

NIGERIA

Buhari Stresses Productivity in May Day Message

AB021245 Lagos NAN in English 1225 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] Lagos, May 2 (NAN) — The head of state, Maj Gen Muhammadu Buhari, said yesterday in Lagos that the Federal Military Government was endeavouring to stimulate productivity consciousness in all sectors of the national economy in order to promote and develop productivity services. In a message to workers to mark this year's May Day, Maj Gen Buhari said that that would help to maximize the utilisation of available and potential resources of the nation to secure a better and higher standard of living. He said that a national productivity centre had been set up toward achieving this objective, adding that the centre would undertake an intensive study of productivity problems in the areas of agriculture, industry, and the public utilities.

On agriculture, Maj Gen Buhari said that in order to "stave off nationwide starvation, famine, and total economic collapse," the government "must enthrone a new epoch of determined and unfailing agricultural development, labor, and productivity." Brig Solomon Omojokun, who also decorated the NLC officials with the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) badge. [sentence as received] Earlier in an address, the president of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Alhaji Ali Chiroma, congratulated the Federal Military Government for effecting changes in the colours of the naira, adding that the measure would help to revamp the economy. Alhaji Ali reiterated the congress' call for the abrogation of what he called the undemocratic trade union act and requested the removal of all obstacles placed on the extension of membership of a union to cover all workers in any industry.

UK Foreign Minister Howe To Make 3-Day Visit

AB022044 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The British secretary of state for foreign affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, will on Monday begin a 3-day official visit to Nigeria. He is expected to hold discussions on matters of bilateral and international relations with his Nigerian counterpart, Dr

Ibrahim Gambari. Sir Howe [as heard] will also meet ministers and officials of other ministries, including national planning, finance, and federal capital territory. The visit is at the instance of the Federal Military Government.

Gambari Holds Talks With Guinean Prime Minister

AB022046 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The Guinean prime minister, Colonel Diara Traore, today had a brief stopover in Lagos on his way from Libreville, Gabon. He was met on arrival at Murtala Muhammad Airport by the minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari. They held discussions over a wide range of issues, with particular reference to the problems facing the African Continent. The Guinean leader expressed his country's confidence in the new military administration headed by Major General Muhammadu Buhari and hoped that the cordial relationship existing between the two nations would be further strengthened. He announced that a Guinean delegation would soon arrive in Lagos to discuss a number of issues with Nigerian leaders. He has since left for home.

Further on Currency Exchange Situation

CBN Director on Exchange

AB021232 Lagos NAN in English 1150 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 2 (NAN) — The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had by Monday distributed more than 1.6 billion naira in new currency notes to commercial banks, the CBN director of domestic operations, Chief Chris Nwagwu, said in Lagos yesterday. He told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that banks in Lagos alone got more than N250 million. Reacting to allegations by commercial banks that the new notes were not made available to them in sufficient quantites for both the exchange exercise and normal banking transactions, Chief Nwagwu said that the amount given out so far was about half of the estimated N3.5 billion old notes in circulation. He said that there were hitches because the banks were not prepared for such operations. "Banks are used to long notices," he observed, adding that they were confused because of the 24-hour notice.

Chief Nwagwu said that reports reaching the CBN on the conduct of the exercise were not unfavourable and that the reports led to his holding an emergency meeting with chief executives of all commercial banks on Sunday.

Their main complaint, he said, was that they needed more new notes to achieve a hitch-free operation. They also highlighted the coincidence of the currency exchange with payments of salaries, Chief Nwagwu added. He said that it was resolved at the meeting that funds would be released specially for payment of salaries, while the banks were told to stick to the guideline that exchange counters should be created in every bank so as not to disrupt normal banking transactions. Chief Nwagwu condemned the practice whereby customers who came to deposit money were lumped with those exchanging old notes, thereby resulting in long queues. He reminded the banks that the exchange exersise should be by way of either payment into account or directly "across the counter."

AFP Report on Situation

AB021652 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 2 May 84

[By Francois-Xavier Harispe]

[Text] Lagos, May 2 (AFP) — Nigeria's 12-day drive to substitute new currency bills for old ones by this Sunday has become a national nightmare. After waiting as long as 10 hours in lines outside banks to change a maximum 5,000 naira (6,500 dollars), many Nigerians have been able to convert only 50 naira. Bankers have claimed that they have had to resort to rationing because of a shortage of new bills, but the government said it had issued enough new bills and accused the bankers of hoarding. The general public has echoed the government's accusations, and yesterday a bank manager barely escaped a lynching at Lagos airport where a crowd, which had gathered during the preceding night, turned violent when the manager apparently ignored them in favor of personal acquaintances.

On April 25, the Nigerian junta of Major General Muhammadu Buhari decreed that all bills of the national currency, the naira, be replaced with new bills by May 6 in a move designed to halt massive currency trafficking that has debased the value of the naira.

In Rivers State in southeastern Nigeria, 51 bank employees were arrested and charged with violating the currency switchover regulations, the *NIGERIAN TRIBUNE* newspaper reported. Although the government is trying to stop naira from being repatriated from abroad, immense sums are flooding back into the country. Nearly 500,000 naira were seized from three flights from Saudi Arabia. Part of the money was carried by members of the airplanes' crews, but most of it was stashed in kettles, flashlights, and cassette players. Nigerians who have relatives employed in banks are apparently the only ones managing to get their old naira changed into new bills, although they are charged commissions. Unless radical measures are taken, the currency switchover appears unlikely to be completed by the Sunday deadline. Some bankers have expressed fears of mass violence Sunday evening after the closing of the banks, but the government has so far refused to change the deadline. Rumors are floating in Lagos that instead of extending the deadline for cash conversions, the government will allow citizens to pay old bills into their bank accounts after Sunday.

The present difficulties are rumored to be caused by large amounts of counterfeit bills in circulation and the possibility that bills not taken out of circulation could distort the government's calculations of the money supply.

In most of the major cities, business has been paralyzed. Merchants have shut their stores instead of running the risk of being forced to accept old currency which is theoretically legal tender until Sunday. Lagos has been without meat since Wednesday because the slaughterhouses have closed due to a refusal by livestock owners to sell their animals for old currency, the *GUARDIAN* newspaper said. In Cross River State, in the

southeast of the country, Military Governor E.A. Archibong ordered banks to cease all activities unrelated to the currency switchover because families were going hungry with food shops closed, the *NATIONAL CONCORD* newspaper said. The Navy has received orders to fire on vessels suspected of carrying old bills back to the country, Nigerian television reported last night. Despite the chaos, the currency switchover should help Major General Buhari reduce the money supply as he prepares to present the 1984 budget next Monday, an official said.

Governor Views Exchange Process

AB022150 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpt] The senior accountant with the Union Bank of Nigeria along Hospital Road, Kaduna, has been arrested for exchanging 153,723 naira old currency notes for a Japanese national, [name indistinct]. The accountant, Bakaria Diamishi, was caught red-handed by Governor Usman Muazu, during a surprise visit to commercial banks in Kaduna today. The Japanese, an employee of Chihoda construction firm, cleverly supported the huge amount with 50 fictitious names, each of whom he alloted over 3,000 naira. Also caught red-handed in the bank was the assistant manager, Henry Arenu, who was personally exchanging 2,158 old naira notes for two ladies in his office while the bank is claiming to have run short of the new currency notes. Governor Usman Muazu ordered the arrest of the cashier with the African Continental Bank, Godson Okyenu, who exchanged 11,000 naira for a customer without the supporting affidavit. The branch manager told the governor that he uncovered the deal while crosschecking the day's transactions. The manager said he had earlier instructed the cashier to bring back the customer to support the deposited amount or an affidavit which had not been complied with. At the Savannah Bank, the governor directed the manager to reject the only affidavit shown to him because it does not show the amount deposited by the customer.

At the Cooperative Bank, the First Bank, and the United Bank for Africa (UBA), the governor was told of the shortage of new currency notes. The First Bank manager, Alhaji Ismaela, said the bank has, since last Monday, forwarded a request for new notes from the Central Bank but had not yet received the allocation. He said the bank was receiving old currency notes from customers in exchange for receipts until he received new ones. Governor Muazu also discovered some new currency notes in the safe of the UBA which the officials claimed were meant for persons who deposited their old naira notes. The governor, however, ordered that the money be used immediately to serve those in the queue. Air Commodore Muazu advised all bank managers he visited to pay more attention to the exchange than to the normal transactions. Meanwhile, various organizations in Kaduna now find it difficult to run their daily activities because they cannot cash their checks at the banks. Some cashiers of those organizations were told at the banks that they have been directed to stop the withdrawal of cash until the current exchange exercise. The purported directives have adversly affected employees paid through banks who cannot collect their salaries. The Central Bank has asked the commercial banks to create seperate counters for the currency exchange exercise and continue normal banking transactions.

Citizens Complain About Exchange

AB022135 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpts] As the currency exchange exercise entered its 8th day today, members of the public are still finding it difficult to change their old currency notes to new ones at some of the commercial banks. Most of the banks have stopped paying the new money and are only accepting lodgements. Some customers complained of ineptitude by some bank officials and claimed that more people were being attended to through the back door inside the banks than from the queues. Correspondent Okehi Quarcoo, who visited the banks and business places, interviewed a number of persons on their reaction to the situation.

[Begin recording] [Idiare] My name is Mohamed Idiare. Since quarter to seven I was here to pay in my remaining old notes into the ....This is my bank, even my salary is here.... I can't receive my salary. I am working with State Agricultural Bank, Nigeria Limited, 33 Awolowo Road, but since I can't receive my salary and I can't exchange the few old notes I have, I decide to pay in. I can't pay it. Since quarter to seven I am here. And the time is 11:52 now. Still no more....

[Unidentified person] The exercise is no justice. We don't know the bank officials. They are not having full sympathy to the masses. You can see how we stand in the hot sun — many people here.

[Quarcoo] Apart from the fact that people are standing in the hot sun here, (?can't this) be attributed to the fact that there are so many people to be attended to. Or are you finding out some other grievances in your...?

[Unidentified person] What we know, some of these Armed Forces policemen, the mobile police, we thought they are going to arrange the line for us, but you can see that they come for their own purpose. You can see they have already occupied the whole front of the line. That is why we can't move.

[Quarcoo] You mean that most of you came before them?

[Unidentified person] Yes! We came before them, and they come pretending that they come to arrange the line for us, but you come to see that they arrange it just to get the chance for them to land themselves in front and we can't do anything. So the War Against Indiscipline...it seems that it is only on civilians, and not on the Armed Forces. [end recording]

FMG Invokes Relief Measures

AB022240 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 2 May 84

[Excerpts] The Federal Military Government [FMG] is to issue some amounts to each state government for exchange in areas where there are no banking facilities or where such facilities are inadequate. This is one of the measures being taken to ensure that the exchange exercise is successfully completed within the stipulated period. The Central Bank has also directed commercial banks to place more emphasis on the currecny exchange

exercise by opening more counters, as well as to ensure that separate cases [as heard] are created for people who wish to exchange not more than 200 naira. It has also asked the commercial banks, with effect from Friday until the end of the exercise, to suspend all other banking transactions and concentrate fully on the exchange exercise.

On Sunday, the last day of the exercise, all persons wishing to exchange any amount above 200 naira should deposit the money and obtain a bank teller's receipt for it. It gave the assurance that they will get the money back immediately after the 6th of this month. The offices and cash centers of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria and federal savings banks will now be used for the purpose of exchanging money of not more than 200 naira. Meanwhile as from tomorrow, banks have been directed to operate from 0800 to 1900 until the end of the exchange exercise.

A Radio Nigeria correspondent, who visited many commercial banks today, said that members of the public were still finding it difficult to change their old currency notes. At all the banks visited, the long queues were largely made up of workers and traders. One striking feature of the queues, he remarked, was that no big time Nigerian businessmen, women, or foreigners were seen in the lines. In another development, prices of commodities have also gone up by more than 50 percent. Our correspondent, who visited some market places today, says the increases arose from apparent hoarding of goods by traders. Some shops and petrol stations have also suspended services because they will not accept the outgoing notes. The currency exchange exercise ends on Sunday. Meanwhile, 11 bank officials have been arrested by the police in Lagos for carrying large sums of money to their offices. The police say over 100,000 naira in old notes were recovered from the officials, meant to be changed into new ones. The police have therefore warned all bank officials and members of the public who patronize them to desist from doing so.

U.S. Asked To Reconsider UNESCO Decision

AB021630 Lagos International Service in English 1430 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Nigeria has appealed to the United States to reconsider its decision to withdraw from UNESCO at the end of the year. In a statement in Lagos, the government said that U.S. withdrawal from the organization will jeopardize the principle of universality set forth in UNESCO's constitution. The Federal Government further commended the United States for its contribution to the organization since its formation in the struggle for democracy and world peace. The United States gave notice of its withdrawal from UNESCO last year.

Members of 'Decree No 4' Tribunal Sworn In

AB021728 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 2 (AFP) — Members of the four-man tribunal set up by the Nigerian military authorities to try persons under the "Public Officers (Protection Against False Accusation) Decree" were sworn in here today by Federal Chief Justice George Sodiende Sowemimo. The Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) has taken the federal attorney-general to court over the decree, which the union said constituted an "executive interference" with press freedom in Nigeria. Two journalists of the independent *GUARDIAN* newspaper are being held in connection with a story on a proposed reorganization in Nigeria's diplomatic missions. The tribunal, headed by a federal high court judge, has one top-ranking officer from the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. "Decree No 4," as it is popularly called, makes it an offence punishable by 2 years' jail for any person to publish false information, rumor, report, or statement calculated to ridicule or bring disrepute on the federal or any of the state governments and their functionaries.

A body corporate found guilty under the decree will be liable to a fine of not less than 10,000 naira (13,000 dollars) and a forfeiture to government of the equipment used for the publication. Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, the second in command of the ruling Supreme Military Council (SMC), said last week that journalists Tunde Thompson, now held for 3 weeks, and Nduka Irabor, for 15 days, might face trial if they were found to have violated the provisions of Decree No 4. A number of organizations, including the International Press Institute (IPI) through its President Max Snijders, have called for the release of the journalists.

Firms Dealing With RSA Should Be Expelled

AB021625 Lagos International Service in English 1430 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] There has been a suggestion that any company in the country having business dealings with apartheid South Africa should be sent packing immediately. The vice chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Abeokuta, Prof Chimere Ikoku, made the suggestion on an Ogun radio program. He said since the country did not favor transnational corporations dealing with South Africa, such companies should make a choice between the white racist government and Nigeria. Prof Ikoku expressed regret that the country was lagging behind in the chemical industry, adding that unless the gap was bridged economic problems will remain unsolved.

Proposed New International Bank Given Support

AB030930 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Nigeria says she supports in principle the establishment of the proposed international bank by the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce. The head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, made this known while exchanging views with a delegation of the federation at Dodan Barracks. He said the proposed bank, Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, would complement the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS] in promoting economic cooperation within the region. Gen Buhari expressed hope that the bank's mode of operation would be within accepted banking regulations. The leader of the delegation, Chief Adeyemi Lawson — who is also the president of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mining and Agriculture — told the head of state that some other ECOWAS

countries have approved the setting up of the bank. The bank will have an initial capital of 66.7 million naira to be subscribed by the 16 ECOWAS countries.

SIERRA LEONE

Soviet Official Defends USSR Fishing Agreement

AB021642 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Freetown, May 2 (AFP) — The Soviet Union has lost between 7 and 12 million rubles (5.5 and 9.4 million dollars) every year since the signing of its fisheries agreement with Sierra Leone 8 years ago, a Soviet official told a press conference here. Edward Sekretarev, a representative of the Soviet Fisheries Ministry here, said losses from the very beginning of the agreement were due to "too great distances" between Sierra Leone and the Soviet Union, and the fact that about 70 percent of fish caught by Soviet trawlers within Sierra Leone's 200-mile economic zone is "very small."

Asked why the Soviet Union had continued to send its trawlers to fish in Sierra Leone waters despite the losses, Mr Sekretarev said, "We did sign an agreement with the Sierra Leone Government and we want to adhere strictly to the provisions of that agreement. We are of the opinion that we are providing help to the people of this country." Earlier in a prepared text Mr Sekretarev had said that "Sierra Leone and the Soviet Union benefited a lot from what has been done in 7 years of cooperation."

The news conference, although timed to coincide with the 8thyear of the fishing agreement, seemed to have been motivated by what the Soviet representative described as "rare and contradictory" reports in the press. Mr Sekretarev conplained that reports in the local press are "sometimes not objective and the principles of our mutual cooperation are sometimes distorted." He named the London-published *WEST AFRICA* and *AFRICA NOW* magazines as carrying reports alleging that the Soviet Union "extracts too much fish out of Sierra Leone waters." Mr Sekretarev denied the reports, saying, "We are not depleting the fishing resources of Sierra Leone."

Soviet and Sierra Leonean scientists were of the opinion that up to 150,000 tons of fish and other sea products per year may be taken in Sierra Leone waters without detriment to fish resources and their future, he said. The average annual catch by Soviet trawlers during the last seven years was 69,000 tons, less than half the limit established by scientists, he added.

The catch of local companies and small fishermen was approximately 20-30,000 tons, making a total of not more than 100,000 tons, Mr Sekretarev said. It is small fish such as sardinella, list, otoperka, and others with life cycles of 3 to 4 years which account for 70-80 percent of fish resources in Sierra Leone waters, he stressed. Noting that "one of the most acute socio-economic problems in Africa is the food problem," Mr Sekretarev said that the Soviet Union had given "much attention to the development of cooperation with Sierra Leone" and assisted in 600 projects in Africa as a whole.

TOGO

Eyadema Holds Talks With Belgian Official

AB022232 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] In an audience at the presidential palace this morning, the head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, received a Belgian delegation headed by Francois-Xavier de Donnea, Belgian secretary of state for development cooperation.

The audience, which lasted about 50 minutes, enabled the Belgian delegation and Gen Eyadema to discuss issues concerning the cooperation existing between Belgium and Togo. After the audience, Mr de Donnea said he was happy to seeGen Eyadema once again.

[Begin recording] [De Donnea] In the first place, I would like to express my happiness for having the opportunity to see Gen Eyadema once again after our previous meeting last year in Brussels, during his official working visit to our country. At that time, we had the opportunity to sign — the Togolese foreign affairs minister and myself — the first cooperation agreement between Belgium and Togo.

During our meeting this morning, we took a general look at the bonds of cooperation between Belgium and Togo, which are quite excellent, since there are no problems at all between our two countries. We also took a look at the political problems now facing the countries in the region, including Togo, and mainly spent time discussing prospects concerning the renewal of the Lome Convention which, as you know, contributes to cooperation among African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries on one hand and EEC countries on the other.

[Unidentified reporter] During the visit recently made to Belgium by the head of state, some development projects were discussed, mainly two, that is, the seeds farm and the rural water supply projects. During the audience this morning, did you discuss any areaa which can contribute to the development of cooperation between the two countries?

[De Donnea] I think that before considering other sectors apart from those which have already been scheduled or are now under way, what has been scheduled should be correctly implemented. Apart from the two projects you have just referred to — the seeds farm and the rural water supply projects — we also have an important project, the Pan-African Training Center, the foundation stone of which we are going to lay this afternoon at 1600.

It is worth noting that it is a very important project which aims at activating the training of Africans by Africans here in Togo. It should be underscored that as its name appears, it is a pan-African center which is not aimed at training only the Togolese, but is also opened to neighboring countries because it is in fact a regional initiative in this tropical part of Africa. [end recording]

One may note that Anani Akakpo-Ahianyo, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, was present at the audience.

UPPER VOLTA

New Agreement Signed With AFP News Service

AB281138 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 28 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Yesterday morning Comrade Adama Toure, minister of information, and Philippe (Meuri), Ouagadougou bureau chief of AGENCE FRANCE PRESS [AFP], signed an official document amending the agreement signed in March 1983 between AFP and our country. Under the new agreement, the revolutionary government will pay the AFP bureau in Ouagadougou 1.2 million CFA francs monthly, beginning 1 January 1984, for the news items that this agency places daily at our disposal. In fact, Article 1 of the agreement between the two parties stipulates that AFP will place at the exclusive disposal of the Government of Upper Volta, for dissemination within the territory of the Republic of Upper Volta, its world news service as well as its economic and financial news service in French, transmitted from Paris via teleprinters. The services are known as Afrigascar. The agreement is for 1 year and can be renewed by mutual agreement.

It will be recalled that AFP had agreed to the rate of 1 million CFA francs monthly in 1983 and it is this rate that has now been revised and upgraded officially to 1.2 million CFA francs beginning 1 January 1984. The news services will be placed at the disposal of our people through the UPPER VOLTA NEWS AGENCY, AVP, to which the Council of Ministers has just granted the monopoly for collecting, disseminating, purchasing, selling, and exchanging news items from news agencies covering the entire country.

ANGOLA

UNITA To Release British Hostages 'Next Week'

NC021829 Paris AFP in English 1745 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] London, May 2 (AFP) — Sixteen British hostages held by the rebel Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) since February 23 will be freed next week, the Foreign Office said here today. They were captured with a number of other foreign nationals assisting the Luanda government in a UNITA raid on the diamond-mining centre of Kafunjo in northern Angola. Negotiations for their release have been going on between UNITA and the British Government for several weeks. Last week the South African-backed rebels freed 89 hostages, mainly Portuguese and Filipinos, captured in raids in various parts of Angola, including Kafunjo. They are still holding 20 Czechoslovaks captured in March last year and an estimated 40 Portuguese. (The Czechoslovak News Agency CTK reported today that the health of the 20 was "satisfactory." It quoted International Red Cross doctors who had examined them. The Red Cross took letters and photographs from the hostages and delivered parcels from their families, CTK said.)

The Foreign Office said today that its specialist on relations with Africa, John Leahy, would visit UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in his headquarters at Jamba, southern Angola, next week. The hostages would be released on Mr Leahy's arrival, the Foreign Office said. It was hoped that the Portuguese wife of one of them would also be freed. The British Government has normal diplomatic relations with the Angolan Government and wants to avoid giving the impression of recognising Mr Savimbi's movement officially. A reliable source here said that London hoped to do this by sending Mr Leahy and not a higher-ranking representative, as Mr Savimbi had wanted.

May Day Celebrations Draw Thousands in Luanda

MB021034 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Thousands of workers, students, and members of defense and security forces yesterday commemorated the great proletariat event, International Worker's Day, all over the country with revolutionary enthusiasm. During the ceremonies held in several Red Squares, the workers, mobilized and led by the Angolan trade unions, demonstrated once again the benefits of a society where the old capitalism system of exploitation had been suppressed and where the people want to directly assume the running of the country's economy.

The high point of the commemorations at the national level was in Luanda, where the participation of more than 150,000 workers, and the population in general, gave this commemoration a genuine air of festivity. The great worker's celebration started with the march of a group called Antonio Agostinho Neto, which included the supreme leader of the party and nation, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, and other members of the party and government. During the march the workers, organized by trade unions, displayed their symbols and held signs proclaiming their adherence to the principles defended by the MPLA-Labor Party and their interest in peace as a fundamental condition for the harmonious running of the country.

The Luanda workers and peasants expressed equally their condemnation of South African attacks against our country. They were unanimous in their decision to swap their tools for weapons in case the country needs it. The workers also have shown their firmness and determination to fulfill the 1984 watchword, year of defense and production, and to achieve the main objectives we want for this year, namely, to organize an economy that will support the war and make war to defend the economy. The internationalist workers, who also marched yesterday, reaffirmed their solidarity with the Angolan people and reiterated their condemnation of the most inhuman regime in the African Continent, the South African regime. The May Day celebrations in Luanda Province culminated with the march of the defense and security forces, to whom the Angolan people assign their trust and the hard task of defending the Angolan motherland and the conquests already gained by the Angolan people.

UNTA Official Lauds Workers' Spirit on May Day

MB030735 Luanda ANGOP in French 1330 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Luanda, 2 May (ANGOP) — Mr Pascual Luvualu, the secretary general of the National Union of Angolan Workers [UNTA], stated in Luanda yesterday that "the Angolan workers have, over the last few days, performed major acts which have transcended all expectations and which will remain inscribed in our country's glorious history." Addressing a message of greetings to all Angolan workers gathered at the Angolan Central Trade Union headquarters, Mr Pascual Luvualu spoke about the organization of the first congress of the Angolan trade union movement and the commemoration of 1 May, which, he said, has been celebrated for the 10th time in Angola. The great enthusiasm and spirit of support shown by these activities, he underlined, have once again stresssed the ardent affection and growing confidence of the Angolan workers in the Angolan Central Trade Union under the leadership of the MPLA-Labor Party, the vanguard of Angola's working class.

To end his message, Mr Pascual Luvualu said that the future should be characterized by intense and incessant fighting against complacency, nepotism, and other malpractices so that the Angolan people may obtain new and major victories as they have done in the past.

New Defense, Security Council Described

MB030651 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The recently created Defense and Security Council will have two working commissions which will be in charge of promoting its decisions and supporting its activities. One commission is in charge of defense and security, propaganda and counterpropaganda, production, supply, and support to the provinces, and the other is in charge of planning, finance, external trade, banking, and international cooperation. This council will convene in two sessions, one every week to discuss matters of defense and security, and the other every 2 weeks for other matters. The

president of the republic, who is also the chairman of the council, could summon extraordinary meetings, and through the president's initiative, or on request of any member of the council, other persons who are able to give information of expert reports on the projects under discussion will be allowed to attend the meeting. The Defense and Security Council includes the ministers of defense, state security, interior, planning, and provincial coordination and the FAPLA General Staff. The party secretary for ideology, information, and culture will also participate in the meetings of the council.

ANGOP Hails Arusha Summit, RSA Accords

MB021850 Luanda ANGOP in French 1330 GMT 2 May 84

[ANGOP commentary: "Southern Africa: Angola and Mozambique on the Right Path"]

[Text] Luanda, 2 May (ANGOP) — The peoples of Angola and Mozambique, formerly colonized by Portugal, took up arms in order to achieve total independence, first in the political field and then in the economic field, and the development of a climate of peace and stability. This noble objective, which guided the armed struggle waged by the MPLA in Angola and Frelimo in Mozambique, has not yet been totally attained. Peace, without which there can be no development, has not existed in the two countries since independence was gained some 10 years ago.

The two countries have inherited a precarious economic structure from colonialism which is exposed to the disastrous consequences of the world economic crisis and aggravated each day by the burdens of the war which has been imposed on them by imperialism and the Pretoria regime. From their battle reports, imperialism and Pretoria have not realized that, despite their powerful war machinery and continued attempts to destabilize the Frontline states, they cannot crush the unshakable desire of the peoples of Angola and Mozambique to proceed with confidence along the path of socialism, as well as to continue providing overall support for the heroic struggle for independence and emancipation of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa. It was in this context that the negotiation process with South Africa was begun. These negotiations concluded with the Lusaka accord, which was signed last February between Pretoria and Luanda, and the Nkomati accord between Mozambique and South Africa, which was signed last March. The two accords are fundamentally aimed at establishing a climate of peace in southern Africa and a solution to the issues of Namibia and South Africa through dialogue.

Accordingly, at the world level it was noted that the diplomatic offensive undertaken by Angola and Mozambique was aimed at establishing peace in southern Africa. In addition, at the regional level, the Frontline summit held in Arusha last Sunday demonstrated the unity of action and principles of the six members with regard to the peace initiatives undertaken by Angola and Mozambique, contrary to statements by a certain sensationalist press of alleged differences among the Frontline States. On this same occasion, the heads of state and government of the Frontline States who met in Arusha expressed their support for Angola and Mozambique and reaffirmed their total solidarity with the peoples of Namibia and South Africa, under the respective leadership of SWAPO and the ANC of South Africa. They also urged the Pretoria regime to begin negotiations with Nelson Mandela and other South African nationalists, who are in jail, in order to reach an internal accord which brings an end to apartheid.

With regard to Namibia, the Frontline States once again demanded that South Africa immediately apply Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council for the independence of Namibia. In addition to hailing the Lusaka and Nkomati Accords, the Frontline States have demanded that the Pretoria authorities fully implement the pledges made under the accords. The six Frontline states also demanded an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from Angolan territory, one of the most important clauses of the Lusaka Accord. As can be seen, the Arusha summit has proved to Africa and the world that by undertaking the actions of peace and stability in southern Africa, Angola and Mozambique are on the right path, and that peace continues to constitute the objective of the struggle of these two countries, which yesterday fought against colonialism and today are fighting imperialist manuevers aimed at destroying the revolutionary gains achieved by Angola and Mozambique.

LESOTHO

Minister Explains Proposed Identity Documents

MB030644 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The minister of interior, Mr Sekhonyana Maseribane, says that an identity card is an international document which is meant to enable people to identify themselves. Mr Maseribane was speaking during a debate on the newly introduced Passport and Identity Card Service Bill of 1984. He said that the identity card will in no way resemble South African passes carried by Africans in the racist South African regime. The bill stops illegal entering into Lesotho by foreigners. Presently there are several people in Lesotho who own land although they are not citizens of the country. These people are found in large numbers in the Maseru Townships, particularly in the Township of (Mutimposo). He further pointed out that it is illegal to pass into South Africa through unauthorized points. He recalled that in the past few years several Lesotho citizens were fatally shot by South African white farmers because they had entered that country through unauthorized points. Mr Maseribane appealed to the Basotho to abide by the country's laws and pass through the authorized border posts when they travel to South Africa.

MOZAMBIQUE

Foreign Minister Speaks to May Day Rally

MB301917 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0937 GMT 1 May 84

[Speech by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano in Maputo at a rally of workers, students, and members of the FPLM and mass democratic organizations to mark May Day —live]

[Excerpts] We wish, through you, to salute the millions of Mozambican workers who are celebrating this day of proletariat

internationalist solidarity throughout the country. Long live proletariat internationalism! [crowd shouts: Long live]

We wish, on your behalf, to salute internationalist foreign aid workers who have paraded with you here and all others to all corners of the country. [applause] They are devoting their efforts and knowledge to the building of our people's progress. We wish, through you, to salute the workers who, despite the lack of raw materials and spare parts, are working devotedly for the implementation of our plans.

We wish, through you, to salute peasants who have not desisted in the face of natural disasters and the criminal actions of the armed bandits. We wish to salute the peasants who, instead of despairing, continue to sow the land.

Through you, we wish to salute the teachers, students, doctors and nurses, technicians, scientists, civil servants, and artists who, in their places of work, are contributing with devotion to the creation of progress and wellbeing. In various sectors there are thousand of workers who are distinguishing themselves through their level of commitment, thus deserving prizes for their selfless socialist spirit of hard work. They are the champions of discipline and production.

With particular affection, we wish to warmly salute the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the FPLM. [applause] Members of the FPLM are uniformed workers who carry on the glorious traditions of the FPLM. They are the people who continue with courage and self-denial the tremendous task initiated by the heroic generation of 25 September. They are the people who have defended the lives and property of our people. They are the people who guarantee our independence and sovereignty and ensure the inviolability of the sacred territory of our socialist fatherland. [applause] They are the people who defend our people's gains. They are the workers, peasants, and intellectuals in uniform who guarantee the triumph of our revolution. We salute the FPLM on your behalf and on behalf of all Mozambican workers for the successes they have been achieving in the military offensive against armed bandits. [applause] The FPLM continues to carry out hot pursuits and to surround and annihilate the armed bandits without mercy, moved by the unshakable decision to eliminate them once and for all. Thus the FPLM are building peace and tranquillity, an essential condition for us to win victory in the economic battle.

We also wish to salute the people's militia, the police force, and the people's security national service for their fight to eliminate armed and unarmed bandits, thus decisively contributing to the defense of law, public order, and tranquillity. [applause]

Compatriots, we are celebrating this May Day only a few days after the holding of two important events for the people of our country. The party Central Committee met in its third session from 19 to 21 April. The People's Assembly met from 24 to 27 April in its 12th session. At two meetings of the organs of the party and state leadership, our current situation was examined. They reviewed the work carried out since the fourth Frelimo Party Congress and made important decisions. There were three main issues debated during these meetings: the fight against armed bandits, the fight to remove our economy from its present crisis, and the fight in the diplomatic firld. These organs of the party and state reviewed the activities carried out by the party, the state, and the people in general in the materialization of these tasks already defined by the fourth Frelimo Party Congress and drew up guidelines. They decided to correct the mistakes which were detected and to enable us to achieve victories in the sectors where there were failures.

Accordingly, today on May Day, before you workers, trade unionists, soldiers, intellectual workers, and all the Mozambican people, we wish to review some of these decisions of the supreme organs of our state and party.

In the fight against armed banditry we have eliminated or captured thousands. We have freed civilians found under the terror of armed bandits. As a result of this success, hundreds of bandits have been surrendering to our forces. However, we have all experienced, particularly the peasants, that a snake with a broken spine still possesses poison, still bites, and still kills. The armed bandits carry out their criminal activities in small groups to hamper their detection and the subsequent hot pursuit and annihilation by our forces. They try to infiltrate into our people's midst in order to better determine their target and later on carry out their crimes.

The armed gangsters are in despair following the Nkomati Accord. Today, by using subtler forms, they try to infiltrate our midst. They want to live in our huts dressed like us. They want to attack us in our own restaurants, workplaces, and fields. The word vigilance has more significance today than ever before. Not only words but action is very important if we are to detect, denounce, and neutralize armed gangsters wherever they may be found in our country,disguised or in uniform, armed or unarmed. [applause] This is the right time for us to strike a decisive and final blow at this dying snake. It was in this context that we decided to continue with the organizational offensive in the Armed Forces in order to strengthen their battle readiness and improve the level of organization and military recruitment, thus recognizing the value of compulsory military service.

In order to improve organization and strengthen loca defense force commands, the FPLM was also charged with the task of expanding military training and intensifying the patriotic education of the youth in schools, institutes, universities,enterprises, cooperatives, hospitals, and all workplaces and residences. But patriotic education is not only a task of the Armed Forces. It is not only a task of the party officials. It is not only a task of members of the People's Assembly. Patriotic education is the task of every parent. It is the task of every brother . It is the task of every colleague at work. Patriotic education is not only learned at school. It is obtained wherever Mozambicans gather together. Patriotic education is not only obtained through words and written lessons. Patriotic education is obtained through concrete examples and actions. [Chissano interrupts his speech to sing in his vernacular language]

With regard to the people's militia, we have decided to unify its command, making it answerable to the leadership of the Armed Forces, heighten its level of organization, ensure the selection, training, and adequate integration of militiamen, and allow the people's participation in the purge of militia ranks. These deci-

sions are very important for us to make the year 1984 a year of total elimination of armed banditry.

The application of these decisions demands ample participation by the people. Every citizen and every patriotic worker should spread the values of patriotism within his family, at work and at home, and actively contribute in the tasks of the people's militia. Every citizen and every patriotic worker should heighten vigilance to detect the armed bandits trying to infiltrate into the midst of our people in order to escape the just punishment for their crimes. With the same vigilance, every citizen and patriotic worker should denounce the movements of armed bandits wherever they are manifested in our country.

The Central Committee and the People's Assembly have decided that utmost attention should be given to the reorganization of the activities of people who were victims of armed banditry. The task of fighting against armed bandits is a priority task to which we should pay our greatest attention, because the success of all other tasks depends on it. The peace we want in our country depends on the success of our activities in all the military, economic, and diplomatic fields. But, above all, it is the elimination of armed gangsters which is the main power in the maintenance of everlasting peace in the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Machungo Signs Cahora Bassa Accord, Returns

MB030704 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Mozambique's Planning Minister Mario Machungo and Foreign Ministers Jaime Gama of Portugal and Roelof Botha of South Africa signed in Cape Town early this afternoon an accord on the use of Cahora Bassa electricity by South Africa. This morning the director of Mozambique Electricity and the chairman of the HCB [Hydroelectrica de Cahora Bassa] and South Africa's ESCOM signed contracts for the supply of power to South Africa and for the supply of power by ESCOM to Mozambique's southern network. The new contracts and the accord will be operational as soon as the established power begins to be supplied. HCB will supply 1,450 megawatts. The new 75-cent tariff agreed upon represents an increase of 50 percent over the previous one. A premium to be paid by South Africa was also established. With the normal functioning of the dam, the tariff and the premium will be about 9 cents [as heard].

Mozambique will benefit from about 10 percent of the premium. Moreover, Mozambique will have a greater supply of power from Cahora Bassa to be used internally. This reserve has now been established at 200 megawatts. As soon as the supply of power to South Africa is reestablished, Mozambique will be able to stop paying ESCOM in foreign currency for power supplied to the south of our country.

During the signing of the accord, Minister Mario Machungo pointed out that it contributed to the creation of a climate of security, stability, and progress in this region of the African Continent. He hailed the Portuguese Government for having understood that only the signing of an accord on Cahora Bassa would render the project viable and make it possible to draw up prospects for future development. Mr Machungo also said that the enemies of the newly signed accord would try to compromise its implementation, especially those who distrust living in equality and coexistence. The Mozambican delegation, which returned to Maputo this afternoon, included Antonio Branco, minister of industry and energy, and high-ranking government officials.

FPLM Kills Five Bandits in Manhica District

MB021009 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Five armed bandits were killed 2 weeks ago by the FPLM soldiers in the area of (Chibutoquine) in the Manhica District in Maputo. According to the *NOTICIAS* newspaper,a military unit stationed there was alerted to the presence of a group of armed bandits, who at that time were trying to murder people and steal their belongings. The quick answer of our troops forced the bandits to leave the area, leaving one of the dead behind. They took the bodies of four others with them.

FPLM Kills 29 Bandits

MB021550 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Fifteen armed bandits were killed by FPLM soldiers in current pursuit operations in the Mandie Zone, in Changara District, Tete Province. During these operations, weapons and ammunitions were captured. The defeat inflicted upon the enemy was possible because of the vigilance of the populations of the Mandie Zone. We stress that last week the FPLM soldiers repelled a group of armed bandits in the Marara Zone, (Mussa) locality, where 14 bandits were killed. These 29 bandits were killed when they were attacked by our forces because they did not want to desert and surrender to the FPLM soldiers with their weapons.

Further on Bus Ambush by 'Armed Bandits'

MB030805 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 3 Apr 84

[Text] A news item from AIM received last night by our editorial newsdesk says that armed bandits machinegunned an Oliveiras Transport and Tourism Company bus, killing 2 passengers and wounding 10 others near Ricatla Village in Maputo Province on Sunday. The Scania bus with 85 passengers had left Bungane, Gaza Province, on Sunday morning. It was attacked a short distance after leaving Marracuene.

I only heard gunfire coming from both sides of the road, Manuel Machava, aged 42, who works for the Mozambique Bank in Maputo, told AIM. Manuel Machava had gone to Chibuto on Friday to see his family. He also stressed that the bus was only carrying civilians. He further said that more people would have been killed if the driver had stopped the bus when we were fired on by the bandits. Some passengers, after hearing the first rifle shots urged (Gamel Antonio Bila), the driver, not to stop. (Silvestre Juliao Cuiane), one of the passengers, aged 20, died immediately. Another victim (Feliciano Gunguela), aged 51, died in the

hospital during surgery on his stomach. Of the wounded, only two are still in hospital, one of them still in the emergency wing. The remaining, who sustained light injuries, have already returned to their homes.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Prisoners To Be Released 'in Due Course'

MB021920 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1907 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Johannesburg, May 2, SAPA — SWAPO prisoners held at Mariental in SWA/Namibia would be released "in due course," the administrator-general of the territory, Dr Willie van Niekerk, announced tonight. Dr Van Niekerk was quoted by SABC-TV news as saying that moves to release the prisoners had been underway for some time, and followed, among other things, negotiations with Angola. Widespread controversy was sparked by a government decision last week to use a section of the Defence Act to stop the Windhoek Supreme Court from hearing an application for the release of the Materiental detainees from a secret camp. Some prisoners are reported to have been held for 6 years.

SWAPO To Meet With 6 Political Parties

AB021805 Paris AFP in English 1738 GMT 2 May 84

[By Denis Hiault]

[Text] Windhoek, May 2 (AFP) — The Southwest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), engaged in an 18-year bush war for Namibian independence, and six internal Namibian political parties will meet shortly in Lusaka, Zambia, for unprecedented talks on independence, a reliable source said here today. Andreas Shipanga, the head of SWAPO-Democrats, a group which splintered from SWAPO, also told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the six parties participating in the Multiparty Conference (MPC) formed last November will leave Windhoek next week for a swing through Africa. The South African administrator-general for Namibia, Willie van Niekerk, said that preparations were underway for a visit by the MPC to Francophone Africa and Lusaka, but added that no definite dates had been set. Mr van Niekerk added that a meeting between the internal Namibian parties and SWAPO in Lusaka "may be possible, but there is nothing finalized at this stage."

The MPC, which consists of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, the Southwest Africa National Party, the Southwest Africa National Union, SWAPO-Democrats, the Rehoboth Liberation Front, and the Labor Party, is expected to go Lusaka, Libreville, Abidjan, Dakar, and Rabat in that order, informed sources said.

(The SWAPO representative to the United Nations, Theo Ben Gurirab, said in New York that his organization, which has been fighting an 18-year independence war against South Africa, was ready to discuss a cease-fire with a "South African colonial delegation" with MPC members.) The possible opening of talks between Namibian groups under the auspices of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda presents the brightest hope so far for a settlement to the Namibian conflict, observers here said. Up till now SWAPO has been recognised by the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity as the only authentic representative of the Namibian people, and the internal parties fostered by South Africa have been ignored. In February, Mr Kaunda hosted a meeting in Lusaka of Angolan, South African, and American officials that led to an agreement by Pretoria to start disengaging its forces from southern Angola in return for a commitment by Luanda to prevent SWAPO guerrillas in Angola from crossing into Namibia. The supervision of the Angolan-Namibian border was put in the hands of a joint Angolan-South African commission set up in the agreement.

Although nothing has been said of the content of the Lusaka talks between the MPC and SWAPO, they could deal with the MPC's recently published "Declaration of Intent" and "Bill of Rights" designed to serve as the basis for a Namibian constitution. United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 calls for Namibian independence after a withdrawal of South African forces from the former Imperial German colony and the holding of elections. But Pretoria, with Washington's backing, opposes withdrawing its forces from Namibia unless some 25,000 Cuban soldiers in Angola also withdraw. Several MPC members have said that the UN formula, which refers to SWAPO as the sole authentic representative of the Namibian people, is not a "sacred cow." The South African Government has said on numerous occasions that an alternative to the UN plan must be found to break the impasse.

HNP 'Totally Rejects' MPC Rights Charter

MB022020 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1751 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Windhoek, May 2, SAPA — The Herstigte Nationale Party [HNP] in SWA/Namibia "totally rejects" the declaration of basic principles and objectives of the Multiparty Conference, because the MPC seeks a unitary and non-discriminatory state, the HNP leader, Mr Sarel Becker, said in Windhoek today. In a press release, Mr Becker said the wording of the MPC's declaration was "unacceptable" because it sought "total equality among all,irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, and stage of development..." He also took a swipe at the policy of the former South African premier, Mr John Vorster. He said Mr Vorster had "expressly undertaken the process of independence" for the country in his dealings with the then United Nations secretary-general, Dr Kurt Waldheim. Mr Becker added that his party's policy was in line with that of the far-right Conservative Party in South Africa. He also repudiated the SWA National Party of Mr Kosie Pretorius for participating in the privately-initiated Multiparty Conference on the future of the country.

Paper Hails MPC Charter on Fundamental Rights

MB021530 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 24 Apr 84 p 4

[Editorial: "Charter"]

[Text] The critics of the Multiparty Conference [MPC] now have a wonderful opportunity to speak out on the basis of written facts.

They now have the charter of fundamental rights and objectives before them. In the past, the habitual critics of the MPC — especially the Namibian Council of Churches and SWAPO — have alleged that the MPC is nothing but a vehicle for the South African Government. And now the MPC, an independent association of Namibian parties, has set before the territory a document based on the vital UN publications on human rights. Is there any criticism; fundamental criticism? Let the territory hear it. The charter is an extensive document; it encompasses many details of what the new dispensation in South-West Africa/Namibia should be like. Is there criticism of any of these points? Single them out and lay them out for public debate. The columns of this paper will be available for constructive, well-meant criticism.

The MPC has not done its work in the dark. As befits a democratic organization, it has put its thoughts on paper and made it available to any interested party. If anyone thinks he can improve on it, let him be man enough to come forward. The Namibian Council of Churches is welcome to do so; any of its member churches is welcome to do so. (Even individual members of the that splintered organization are welcome to do so. What about it, Mr Ja Toivo? And Messrs Witbooi, Tjongarero, and Bessinger? We are not being malicious; we invite criticism towards a meaningful debate.)

Critics of this document must, however, refrain from making one mistake, and that is to try to ridicule this thoroughly well-founded document through cheap propaganda. They would not go far — not against the MPC, not against the international community, and not against the United Nations. The MPC has set an example for responsibility; critics must follow that example.

The members of the Namibian Council of Churches and ordinary SWAPO members must examine this document closely and then ask themselves if the sowing of seeds of doubt by a small group of clerics and a few SWAPO spokesmen was correct in their condemnation of the MPC (as well as of various other people in politics) which is trying to work out something worthwhile for our nation through peaceful means. After all, there are many thousands of Namibians — by far the majority, according to all indications — who will support this document. Must we continue to tolerate the uninformed bearers of bad tidings who make arrogant accusations that the men behind this public document mean ill for our people? Must we continue to suffer, in the name of a just future, little men who begrudge Ja Toivo his freedom, yet make nasty remarks about the credibility of our MPC leaders who have re-established these internationally acceptable norms? The ordinary members of our population should also make themselves heard.

SOUTH AFRICA

Further on Signing of Cahora Bassa Agreement

MB021318 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] South Africa, Portugal, and Mozambique have signed a trilateral agreement for the supply of electricity to South Africa from the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric scheme in Mozambique. The document was signed at the castle in Cape Town just over 30 minutes ago by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, his Portuguese counterpart, Dr Jaime Gama, and the Mozambican planning minister, Mr Mario Machungo. The signing of the agreement marks the culmination of weeks of negotiations held in Cape Town, Lisbon, and Maputo. One of the articles of the agreement is that South Africa and Mozambique will jointly take immediate steps to protect the transmission lines from attack or interference and safeguard the personnel responsible for the repair and maintenance of the lines. The agreement also provides for the South African Electricity Supply Corporation, ESCOM, to pay a premium over and above the normal tariff as an incentive aimed at maintaining a reliable flow of power.

After the signing ceremony, Mr Botha said that this step had paved the way for a new era of closer economic cooperation and development between South Africa and Mozambique. He said that it could contribute significantly to the peace and prosperity of southern Africa. Mr Botha pointed out that the Cahora Bassa agreement had been made possible by the Nkomati Accord concluded between South Africa and Mozambique on 16 March. Mr Botha said the generation and supply of power was one of the most important projects in the development of a country. This was why South Africa deplored recent terrorist deeds in Mozambique which had been aimed at sabotaging the power supply lines from Cahora Bassa. He emphasized that South Africa condemned terrorism and support for terrorism wherever it occured.

The power supply contract, forming part of the agreement, was signed separately by the chairman of ESCOM, Mr Jan Smith, and his counterpart of the HCB [Hydroelectrica de Cahora Bassa] consortium of Mozambique, Mr (Fernando Fontes). Under the contract, HCB will supply 1,450 megawatts of electricity to the Apollo distribution center. ESCOM will take the bulk of the supply and distribute the remainder to Komatipoort, from where it will be relayed to Mozambique for distribution.

In a statement issued in Cape Town, the minister of mineral and energy affairs, Mr Janie Steyn, said the present tariff of 0.5 cents per kilowatt hour is being increased in terms of the agreement to 0.75 cents. In addition, the premium for regular transmission will be 0.35 cents per kilowatt hour. Mr Steyn said that all three countries would benefit by the agreement. For Portugal, it would mean that it would be able to finance its investment. It was significant to Mozambique,which would receive immediate revenue, and for South Africa,because it would enable the country to obtain about eight percent of its total power requirements from this source.

Conservative Party Rejects Cahora Bassa Pact

MB030632 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The Conservative Party [CP] chief spokesman on foreign affairs, Mr (Frank le Roux), says his party rejects the Cahora Bassa agreement. He said in a statement issued in Cape Town that the agreement was unacceptable to the CP because, in the light of Clause 8, the South African security forces would become involved in the internal struggle of Mozambique,and that

Mozambican security forces would gain access to South African territory.

Minister Reacts to Statement

MB030724 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says the Conservative Party [CP] subjects South Africa's interests to its narrow political perspective. Mr Botha was reacting to the Conservative Party statement that the CP rejects the Cahora Bassa agreement. The agreement, in terms of which South Africa will receive power from Cahora Bassa in Mozambique, was signed by South Africa, Portugal, and Mozambique yesterday. The CP statement said that Clause 8 of the agreement would result in South African security forces becoming involved in the internal struggle in Mozambique, and in that country's security forces gaining access to South African territory. Mr Botha said anyone who claimed that Clause 8 would result in South African involvement in Mozambique's internal struggle had either not read the article or had failed to understand it. Mr Botha said South Africa would have to rely on an uninterrupted flow of power from Cahora Bassa. That power was cheaper than electricity generated locally.

Gama Meets Prime Minister Botha in Capetown

LD022050 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2000 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama is completing his tour of southern Africa. Today, he held talks in Capetown with South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha. The talks lasted about 90 minutes and dealt with the upcoming visit to be paid by the head of the Pretoria government to Portugal, relations with neighboring Angola and Mozambique, and the issue of apartheid in South Africa.

Law Minister Warns of Continued ANC Activities

MB030710 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, says although the government's peace initiatives have done harm to the ANC, the country ought to remain alert. Mr le Grange was speaking in parliament during the debate on the law and order budget vote. He said that although the ANC had between 1,500 and 2,000 trained terrorists, successful operations by the police force have prevented more than 30 of them from being active in South Africa at any one time.

Mr le Grange said the Nkomati Accord had resulted in a considerable increase in the number of ANC terrorists entering Swaziland from Mozambique. He expected even greater numbers to enter South Africa from Mozambique. He said that, thanks to continuous talks with Swaziland, Lesotho, and Botswana, large numbers of ANC terrorists had been removed from or asked to leave these countries.

Mr le Grange said small groups of ANC terrorists had succeeded in entering the country in the past few weeks. Some of these had planned a car bomb attack similar to those in Pretoria and Durban.

One of the targets had been a well-known military address in central Pretoria. An arms cache had been found in Springs. It contained advanced equipment, including 36 kilograms of Russian demolition charges similar to that used in the Pretoria bomb blast. Mr le Grange warned neighboring states, which had been slow to react to friendly requests, not to harbor ANC members, and that the South African Government could not accept that any country be used as a launching pad for acts ot terrorism against it.

He said Britain's attitude of not acting against ANC terrorists living in that country as long as they did not break any British laws was unsatisfactory. He said there should be no doubt about acts of aggression being planned in Britain against South Africa.

Describes 'Massive' Cache

MB030740 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] A massive explosives cache has been discovered on the reef. Minister of Law and Order Louis le Grange announced in parliament yesterday that enough explosives to make two car bombs had been found near springs on the East Rand. He said that the police had received information that bombs were to have been detonated at two places on the reef on Saturday, 14 April.

The one was to have gone off at what he called a very well-known defense force address in Pretoria and the other on the East Rand. Russian equipment and sophisticated radio equipment were allegedly found in the cache. Le Grange said four men had been arrested in connection with the find. He referred to them as members of the Solomon Mahlangu sabotage group, who, he said, were ANC members.

HNP Joins Forces With Conservative Party

MB021650 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The Herstigte Nationale Party, HNP, has decided not to put up a candidate in the Potgietersus provincial by-election. The party will join forces with the Conservative Party against the National Party. This was announced after talks at Jan Smuts Airport near Johannesburg between the leader of the Conservative Party, Dr Andries Treurnicht, and the leader of the HNP, Mr Jaap Marais.

They said in a joint statement that policy differences had been ironed out to such an extent that both parties had agreed to put up one candidate, Mr Jan Homan of the Conservative Party, on behalf of the two parties. The statement said the two leaders also foresaw agreement on a wider front in the future.

Crossroads 'Spirit of Defiance' To Be Squashed
MB030744 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] The deputy minister of cooperation says the spirit of defiance of the people of Crossroads must be squashed. George Morrison told parliament yesterday that the Cape's Crossroads squatter camp was to be disestablished as soon as possible, and its inhabitants dispersed throughout the new township of Khayelitsha. Morrison referred to Crossroads as a symbol of defiance and anarchy. He claimed police could not get into the camp to carry out their duties. Morrison claimed the move was not being planned for ideological reasons. He said the government wanted to uplift the living standards of the people. He said the government was incurring great expenses in establishing Khayelitsha, the township to which most Crossroads residents are opposed to being moved.

3 Seychelles Coup Attempt Mercenaries Released
MB021535 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] Three of the mercenaries involved in the abortive Seychelles coup attempt are out of jail. Yesterday it was announced that Peter Duffy, who was second in command to Mike Hoare in the coup attempt, was out on parole after serving 21 months of his 5-year sentence. Now it has been revealed that two others are also free on parole. Tulio Monetta and (Peter Durbard) have been conditionally released along with Duffy. Of the 42 mercenaries who were jailed for taking part in the coup attempt, the only one left in jail is Mike Hoare, known as Mad Mike. He is serving a 10-year sentence.

SWAZILAND

ANC Representative Interviewed on Activities
MB012030 Mbabane Television Service in English 1630 GMT 1 May 84

[Text] An ANC delegation led by the organization's representative in Mozambique, Mr Moses Mabhida, today met Swazi Government officials for wide-ranging talks on ANC activities in Swaziland. Mr Mabhida, who is accompanied by Mr Jacob Zuma, said he had been asked by the ANC president, Mr Oliver Tambo, to express the organization's condolences over the deaths of Swazi citizens during clashes between our security police and ANC insurgents from neighboring Mozambique. George Mabuza, who posed several questions to the delegation, first asked Mr Mabhida for his reaction to reports in the foreign press accusing the Swazi Government of killing ANC men and planning to repatriate them to South Africa.

[Begin recording] [Mabhida] From our own experience and from our own knowledge, the last man to be in Lusaka was my brother here, Zuma. He had not been given to know about that statement from headquarters.

[Mabuza] So, in other words, are you refuting the statement as untrue?

[Mabhida] [Answer indistinct]

[Mabuza] You haven't been told either about the killings?

[Mabhida] What killings?

[Mabuza] Killings of Swazi citizens and Swazi security forces by the ANC.

[Mabhida] That aspect we explained to the delegations [word indistinct] that we do not know as yet what happened, but we regretted the death of the people in Swaziland and of whoever might have died because the circumstances to us are unknown, and, therefore, simply to make a statement would not assist the situation, and we can repeat to say we regret the death of the Swazi people, whether in the police force or in the Army, because in the first place, it had never been intended that the ANC would ever quarrel with the Swazi people. The tradition has it that when we had misunderstandings which had arisen in the past, in the days of the rule of the king, we knew that Tambo would be called to Mbabane and they would discuss that. Never was there a period when there was a dispute that could get solved by fisticuffs. That has never been our aim.

[Mabuza] What has brought you to Swaziland this time? There have been claims or denials, again through the press, of invitations extended to Mr Tambo by our prime minister, which even go to the extent of implying that he was lying when he said he had invited the ANC leadership to Swaziland to discuss this very issue. What is your reaction to that?

[Mabhida] We are a delegation from the ANC, which has sent us to explain the circumstances surrounding the absence of the ANC delegation, which was only that because of the Nkomati Accord our people cannot officially come via Maputo, and obviously our delegation cannot overfly South Africa. Therefore, there had to be some negotiations with the Mozambicans to facilitate the passage of the delegation to Swaziland, and our presence is to explain this situation which was, as far as we are concerned, beyond our own understanding.

[Mabuza] Do you by any chance accept responsibility for the activities of your men in Swaziland?.

[Mabhida] I do not know what that question really means. What do you mean by that?

[Mabuza] What it means is: Do you accept any responsibility for the killings, the robberies?

[Mabhida] Yeah, (?except) that your question is a little tricky. We did not encourage any one of our people to commit whatever acts they committed here. That was not the...

[Mabuza, interrupting] No, not because you accept the fact that you sent them to do it. I am not saying that. What I am saying is: Do you admit or accept that they did it now that that you have been in Swaziland and have been around?

[Mabhida] We came to apologize because our people got involved in the deaths of the people in Swaziland.

[Mabuza] Now what interim arrangements did you make for your men in Maputo in the light of the Nkomati Accord and its side effects, plus the deadline that the president of Maputo had put for the organization's stay in Maputo?

[Mabhida] I think that would be bringing in a third party, very unfortunately.

[Mabuza] No, unfortunately it does because these people have come from Maputo and have infiltrated in Swaziland. So if there were any arrangements, I think they would kind of unveil the secrecy behind the movement of these men into Swaziland without the authorities knowing here that they were coming.

[Mabhida] You mean with the Maputo authorities?

[Mabuza] No. Without the knowledge of of the Swazi authorities. Your men have infiltrated from Maputo.

[Mabhida] Have they got into Swaziland obviously without the authority of Swaziland, and I think also without the prearrangement with the Mozambicans?

[Mabuza] I mean, what arrangements did your organization make for the movement of these people from Maputo now, so as to avert this situation?

[Mabhida] My explanation of that would probably reveal some underground secrets. I wouldn't say that.

[Mabuza] Did you make arrangements at all?

[Mabhida] I am not [words indistinct] just now. It will be explained, probably by the people responsible for the military men.

[Mabuza] Has Mr Tambo now received the invitation from the prime minister?

[Mabhida] Mr Tambo, together with the executive, sent us here because of the understanding of the invitation of the prime minister. And that is why we came to explain this position.

[Mabuza] Thank you very much. Now what do you see as the future of the ANC in Swaziland in the light of these allegations of murder and robberies?

[Mabhida] When we have been told that the Government of Swaziland has decided to annul the [pause] rights of the refugees...

[Mabuza, interrupting] Told by?

[Mabhida] By the refugees themselves.

[Mabuza] No, I mean what have you been told by them?

[Mabhida] That, they have been told...[change of thought] they were told to be out here by the 15th, isn't it? By some date, to leave Swaziland..

[Mabuza] Apparently this is what you are saying: You have been told by your men, but you have had talks with the government now, and...

[Mabhida, interrupting] Not on that issue. We haven't yet discussed that.

[Mabuza] But would you expect the government to take kindly to accommodating the ANC after these incidents?

[Mabhida] My brother, we have had a long tradition of relationships with Swaziland. Even in spite of this, we think that whatever problems and differences there are, we can be able to iron them out. There is the other question of the refugees. As the problems escalate in South Africa there will be more people coming here, and, therefore, we expect Swaziland, like all other African states, to have that patriotic side of the story.

[Mabuza] Now supposing the government were to continue to offer asylum, as you suggest. What guarantees now would you give to the Swaziland Government in respect of your men still in hiding and their future as a whole in Swaziland?

[Mabhida] Well, my brother, as far as I know a human being is a human being. We have got refugees, genuine refugees. We may still have refugees which are infiltrated for purposes of causing problems between Swaziland and our people. And when you have those people I cannot guarantee for them that they will behave in the way we expect them to behave.

[Mabuza] Are you saying, in other words, that these men now are out of hand in Swaziland?

[Mabhida] Which ones?

[Mabuza] The fellows that we are talking about...

[Mabhida] The refugees?

[Mabuza] We have talked about two classes of refugees. You said there were genuine refugees and there are fellows who had infiltrated into Swaziland, and then you raised a question mark about their identity. What I am asking you now is: Now that some of them have already been identified as ANC men, what guarantees, sorry, how would you see their future in Swaziland?

[Mabhida] We expect them to behave as the members of the ANC, as genuine refugees, and respect their stay in Swaziland, those who are genuine refugees.

[Mabuza] How can you communicate with them? Do you know where they are now?

[Mabhida] As far as I know we once had a representative. It is only that representative that can indicate what kind of needs they have.

[Mabuza] Sir, you just mentioned you had come, in fact you felt pity that people were killed during the clashes. What is your attitude now to the violation of this country's law with regard to the illegal importation of arms?

[Mabhida] Well, the laws of any country are the laws of any country. What I know is that once upon a time we had discussions with the late prime minister, General Maphevu. We had agreed that if there are people who violate the laws of Swaziland, the law will have to deal with them. [end recording]

[Announcer] Also present during the interview held at the offices of the Mbabane Town Council, were the ministers of justice, Mr David Matse; Colonel Fonono Dube of defense and youth; and Mr King Mtetwa of the Ministry of the Interior,as well as the country's ambassador to Mozambique, Mr Christian Masuku. Still refuting other reports in the foreign press, Mr Mabhida admitted that the ANC did in fact receive an invitation from our prime minister for Mr Tambo to visit Swaziland to discuss ANC activities in the country. Reports in certain South African newspapers, quoting ANC sources, said Mr Tambo denied he had received an invitation from the Swazi premier. The government sources disclosed today that the invitation had been sent through our high commissioner in East Africa, Mr Vusi Mamba, and that he had personally handed it to Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda to forward to the ANC. A senior government source said it was strange that Mr Tambo would still not have received the invitation when President Kaunda was known to be a man who would have given the matter the urgent attention it deserved.

Representatives Meet With Officials

MB021111 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 2 May 84 pp 1, 16

[By Mashumi Twala]

[Text] The African National Congress has apologised to the government on the recent activities of its members in which Swazi nationals were killed. An official of the organisation said yesterday that the ANC "regrets" in particular the arms confrontations with the country's Armed Forces which left five people dead. These comprised three ANC activists, one policeman,and one soldier. Mr Moses Mabhida, based in the organisation's office in Mozambique, said the ANC leaders have never and would never issue instructions for its boys to resist and fight Swazis.

He told newsmen at the Mbabane Town Council chambers yesterday that none of the men who were involved in the confrontations with the Armed Forces were operating under instructions. "Our organisation has a tradition that we never resist and fight Swazis, but we obey their laws. Everybody knows that," he said.

Mr Mabhida and the chief executive officer in the Mozambique office, Mr Jacob Zuma, are presently in the country to discuss with government the recent clashes with government forces with a view to finding a solution to the issue.

Yesterday they met with a party of government representatives. These were the minister for defense and youth, Colonel Fonono Dube; the minister for interior, Mr King Mtsetfwa; the minister for justice, Mr David Matse; the commissioner of police, Mr Titud Msibi; and the Army chief of staff, Lt. Colonel Mangomeni Ndzimandze.

Speaking to newsmen before the discussions, Mr Mabhida said they had been sent into the country by the ANC leaders to apologise to government, to arrange for the burial of the three activists killed in the shootouts, and to request the repatriation of ANC members being held in police custody. He explained that they would ask government to drop the charges of possession of arms of war brought against some of the men so that they can be taken away back to Mozambique. Mr Mabhida said all the men who were arrested either at the border or inside the country carrying arms of war were in transit to South Africa to fight. He said they were not told to stay in the Kingdom.

"The guns they were carrying were essential for their final destination and it is not out of disrespect that they had to come through Swaziland. It is because they have no other route," he stated.

Mr Mabhida said the only probable reason why their men opened fire when confronted by the Armed Forces was because of desperation. He described as "absurd" reports being circulated that the Swazi Armed Forces had started the shootings and the ANC activists had responded in self-defence. "That could never happen because the Swazi people know that we are not fighting against them. It is therefore absurd to suggest that the Swazi forces started war on our boys," he said. He denied that the organisation was issuing press statements blaming Swaziland for the clashes. He said: "As far as we know, we have never made any statement on this matter because we did not have the facts about it." Mr Mabhida said every member of the ANC ought to know that he or she should never resist the Swazi authorities. He said it had always been the practice that if any problems emerged between the ANC and the government, these were to be settled peacefully.

He stated that it was the desire of the organisation that nothing of a similar nature should happen in future. But, he stated, while every care would be taken by the organisation to control its men, it could not guarantee that they would behave themselves the way in which they are taught.

"Swaziland is no enemy of ours and we teach our people to cooperate with the authorities. In fact, we have discussed with the late Prime Minister Maphevu that if our people violated this country's laws they should be dealt with accordingly," Mr Mabhida said. He said negotiations were being made with the Mozambican Government for facilities to enable a high-powered delegation from the ANC headquarters to visit Swaziland, following an invitation by the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi. Mr Mabhida said the delegation could not honour the invitation, which arrived in the headquarters 3 weeks ago, until it had been cleared to fly over Mozambique. One of the provisions of the Nkomati Accord between South Africa and Mozambique prohibits the granting of passage, either by air or on ground, to ANC members. Meanwhile Manzini police on Saturday arrested two ANC members in the suburban township of Fairview. The police raided a house in the township after a tip-off from residents who reported that four suspicious-looking men were occupying a house in the area. Two other men managed to escape. Two AK-47 sub-machine guns were confiscated and 6 magazines containing 500 rounds of ammunition each were also found.

OAU Refugee Official Completes Fact-Finding Tour

MB030639 Mbabane Television Service in English 1815 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The director of the OAU Bureau for Refugees, Dr G.J. Bakwesegha, today completed his fact-finding mission concerning activities and behavior of ANC members in this country. During his 2-day stay, Dr Bakwesegha held discussions with the minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini. He also met the minister of the interior, Mr King Mtetwa, in the presence of the minister of justice, Mr David Matse, and the commissioner of police, Mr Titus Msibi, and discussed the number and categories of refugees in this country. Dr Bakwesegha was also taken on a tour of the Ndzevane refugee settlement where he was shown the facilities and talked to a number of the refugees settled there. Dr Bakwesegha said he was impressed by the progress the Swaziland Government and the World Lutheran Federation had made towards making the refugees self-reliant. He said the settlement was one of the best and most impressive he had seen in different parts of Africa.

Dr Bakwesegha said while he had not met any representatives of the ANC refugees, he had taken note of an article in the local press concerning the current visit to this country by a 2-man ANC delegation. He said their visit was the first step towards bringing the two parties to discuss their problems in a peaceful way.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Discusses Nkomati Accord, Mozambique

MB011618 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 1 May 84 p 2

[Text] Lusaka — Mozambique had been "pushed into a tight corner and had no option" but to sign the Nkomati Accord, the Zambian President Dr Kenneth Kaunda said yesterday. Speaking during an airborne press conference in the early hours yesterday on his way to Lusaka from the Frontline summit in Arusha, Tanzania, he said the threat from South Africa had led to the signing of the accord between Mozambique and South Africa. "Mozambique could not risk being overthrown by the rebel Mozambique National Resistance Movement (MNR), as this could have turned the country into an extention of the bantustan homeland which South Africa has created," he said. "Mozambique has been going through a very difficult time. It has been hit by a number of droughts, floods, and, most recently,by a terrible tornado — all these are natural calamities. In addition, South Africa, which is supported by very powerful forces, has been attacking Mozambique by proxy and sometimes directly," he said.

It was because of these hardships that Mozambique had decided to sign the non-aggression pact with its neighbour so that hostilities could come to an end and usher in a new era of peaceful coexistence. President Kaunda said that under the Nkomati Accord,and a similar one signed by Swaziland and South Africa, the ANC could no longer reside in Mozambique or Swaziland. The two states had already asked the ANC to leave. Asked whether the displaced ANC fighters would be given some time to find a suitable place where they could resettle before being expelled from Mozambique and Swaziland, the president said the ANC leaders were still discussing the matter with the two respective governments. President Kaunda described the Arusha summit, which in its communique pledged that Frontline countries would continue to give shelter to the ANC, as "successful."

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Tells Unions To 'Put House in Order'

MB021045 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The trade union movement in Zimbabwe has been called upon to be united because splintered unions are a drawback to development. Addressing a workers' rally at Rufaro Stadium in Harare yesterday, the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, said the trade union movement should put its house in order because its failure is the failure of the workers. Comrade Mugabe also emphasized the need for workers' education in all its forms, technical, political, and organizational, saying this is a fundamental aspect of Zimbabwe's socialist goal.

On wage and salary levels, the prime minister appealed to the workers to take note of the difficult circumstances in which Zimbabwe's economy stands. He said if businesses are making profit, then the opportunity exists for wage increases, but if they are running at a loss, this is not possible in the short term. Comrade Mugabe said despite all this, the government will review all salaries and wages some time this year. He stressed that although the country is facing problems, Zimbabwe is not on its knees and the economy is not collapsing.

Comrade Mugabe commended the television workers for their resourcefulness and indomitable spirit which he said must be fostered throughout the country. Earlier, the prime minister presented the Worker of the Year Award to Comrade Karakaza Muyambo, a [word indistinct] operator with the wattle company in the eastern district.

In Bulawayo, the deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, said workers should not separate themselves from the management and they should know whether their company is making progress or not before demanding wage increases. Comrade Muzenda said if a company is running at a loss, the workers should refrain from asking for wage increases.

Minister Notes Matebeleland Curfew May Be Lifted

MB021400 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The minister of state responsible for defense, Comrade Ernest Kadungure, says the government is considering lifting the dusk to dawn curfew now imposed in some parts of Matebeland South because of the massive improvement in the security situation. He said security forces are reporting a favorable response from the people, and because of this the curfew might be lifted completely. Comrade Kadungure was addressing a workers' rally at (Phelandaba) Stadium in Gwanda before he delivered the

prime minister's speech yesterday. Thanking the people for cooperating with the security forces, Comrade Kadungure said bandits are criminals bent on destroying peace and progress in Zimbabwe. He expressed the hope that the spirit of cooperation would continue even after the curfew has been lifted so that bandits can be wiped out completely.

3 'Dissidents,' Child Killed in Matabeleland

MB030812 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Three dissidents were killed after a conflict with a support unit at Dangamberi Village on Nkayi communal land on Tuesday. A police spokesman says among those killed was the area group commander, who has been identified. The group comprised four members and conflict took place after the dissidents had finished robbing a local store and had assaulted the owner of the shop. The fourth member of the bandits was injured, but he managed to escape. During the crossfire an 18-month-old child was killed and a man sustained a gunshot wound. A considerable quantity of weapons, ammunition, and military clothes was recovered.